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Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2023-24

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Security

Session No. : 8

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB034

(Question Serial No. 2890)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
(3) Road Safety
(4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

A provision of about \$25.35 billion under this Subhead for 2023-24 is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Hong Kong Police Force. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 132 posts in 2023-24. In this connection, please provide the lists showing:

1. the posts to be created and the total expenditure to be involved; and
2. the posts to be deleted and the total expenditure to be saved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. In 2023-24, there will be a net decrease of 132 posts in the Police Force, involving creation of 175 posts and reduction of 307 posts.

Details on the 175 posts to be created and the salaries involved are set out in the following table:

Rank	Number of posts to be created	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2022)
Superintendent	2	PPS 50 – 53	124,925-140,410
Chief Inspector	5	PPS 44 – 49	97,405-120,450
Senior Inspector/Inspector	14	PPS 24 – 43	48,255-93,905
Station Sergeant	10	PPS 24 – 33a	48,255-71,275
Sergeant	34	PPS 17 – 28	39,325-56,455
Police Constable	99	PPS 4 – 17	26,845-39,325
Total (police officers)	164		
Systems Manager	1	MPS 34 – 44	76,380-112,925
Analyst/Programmer I	2	MPS 28 – 33	60,100-75,620
Analyst/Programmer II	3	MPS 16 – 27	34,185-57,395
Telecommunications Engineer/ Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1	MPS 18 – 44	37,685-112,925
Police Telecommunications Inspector	1	MPS 25 – 33	52,370-75,620
Assistant Police Telecommunications Inspector	3	MPS 14 – 24	30,990-50,080
Total (civilian staff)	11		
Total	175		

2. Details on the 307 posts to be reduced and the salaries involved are set out in the following table:

Rank	Number of posts to be reduced	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2022)
Superintendent	3	PPS 50 – 53	124,925-140,410
Chief Inspector	5	PPS 44 – 49	97,405-120,450
Senior Inspector/Inspector	11	PPS 24 – 43	48,255-93,905
Station Sergeant	4	PPS 24 – 33a	48,255-71,275
Sergeant	34	PPS 17 – 28	39,325-56,455
Police Constable	244	PPS 4 – 17	26,845-39,325
Total (police officers)	301		
Traffic Warden	6	MPS 6 – 12	19,265-27,825
Total (civilian staff)	6		
Total	307		

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB035

(Question Serial No. 0452)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the following items mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24:

1) It is mentioned that the Force will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to address the problems of juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in crime and drugs. Please set out the organisations approached, the joint programmes and projects undertaken, the number of juveniles participating in such programmes and projects for the past 3 years, as well as the details of the multi-agency approach to be adopted by the Force in the coming year;

2) Regarding the target to enhance the expertise and capability of police officers in addressing juvenile delinquency, please provide information on the seminars, training courses, refresher courses and overseas training attended by police officers for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by the number of participants, key learning areas, amount of subsidies (if any) given to police officers, and the provision for such seminars or training courses.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1) The Police Force attaches great importance to juvenile crimes. The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach and maintaining close co-operation and communication with the Education Bureau (EDB), school sponsoring bodies, schools, parent-teacher associations, school heads associations and social welfare organisations. Stakeholders from all walks of life are encouraged to make concerted effort to foster the law-abiding awareness among young people and to strengthen the work in prevention of juvenile delinquency.

The Force maintains close liaison with EDB, schools, different disciplined services and other stakeholders in youth services through a variety of youth programmes, including the Junior Police Call (JPC) Scheme and the Police School Liaison Programme. These initiatives help to improve communication with young people and provide a platform for them to engage in a variety of community services to foster their law-abiding

awareness and develop more young people into “future leaders and police fight crime-partners”.

Under the Police Superintendent’s Discretion Scheme, police officers have the discretion to caution, rather than prosecute, arrestees under the age of 18 for minor offences, in order to give young people whose offences are minor the opportunity for rehabilitation through corrective supervision. With the consent of the parents or guardians of arrestees under the age of 18, the Force will also refer them to the Community Support Service Scheme, funded by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), to provide them with support services to help them reintegrate into society and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

In 2019, the Force Working Group on Community Engagement was established to regularly discuss and exchange views on topics related to youth crime preventions with members from School Heads Associations and Federations of Parent-teacher Associations of 18 districts. The aim is to strengthen the co-operation between the Force and school sponsors to prevent students and youth from going astray or becoming victims of crime.

In 2021, the Force established the Leadership Institute on Narcotics (L.I.O.N.), through which mentees design and implement their own anti-drug activities each year, with the aim of disseminating anti-drug messages to young people and the general public and promoting drug-free culture in schools and society.

In September 2022, the Force and EDB collaborated to publish *A Chronicle of Juvenile Crimes: Strategies for Teachers and Parents*. Copies of this booklet were distributed to primary and secondary schools, school sponsoring bodies and non-governmental organisations working with youths to help teachers and parents better understand the youth crime trend, inform them of the serious consequences of breaking the law and raise the law-abiding and self-protection awareness of young people. The Force also produced a number of short crime prevention video clips for schools to show at morning assemblies, in lessons, and after school hours in order to make it easier for youngsters to understand the relevant information.

Between September and November in 2022, the Force launched the Anti-drugs Campaign, which is a large-scale territory-wide publicity campaign that highlights the harm of drugs and drug trafficking to youths by means of innovation and technology. Besides, the Force launched a series of mini-films and anti-drug promotional animation to encourage young people to say “No” to drugs in a fun way. A promotion truck was also used to spread anti-drug messages throughout the territory.

In the year ahead, the Force will continue to take a multi-agency approach and strengthen collaboration with other government departments and stakeholders from all sectors of the community by organising various activities to raise the law-abiding awareness of young people and assist them in staying away from crime. To raise the youths’ awareness of the law and foster positive values in students, the Force will also continue to strengthen its partnerships with schools, social workers, parents and other stakeholders, making the entire community the Force’s partners in both policing and crime prevention.

- 2) The Force adopts an “inter-departmental” and “multi-disciplinary” strategy in combating juvenile delinquency and reducing recidivism. The strategy focuses on four aspects, namely, prevention, combat, graduated sanction and rehabilitation programme. Juvenile offenders being monitored by the Force’s Juvenile Protection Sections may be referred to the Community Support Service Scheme, the SWD, and/or the EDB for further services when necessary.

To enhance the competence and capabilities in tackling juvenile delinquency, the Force has incorporated training courses on juvenile delinquency into the “foundation training programme”. Training materials including training day packages are also regularly reviewed and updated. The details are as follows:

Induction Training

Probationary Inspectors and Recruit Constables are required to attend a 2-hour lecture on the protection of children and juveniles given by instructors of the Hong Kong Police College (the Police College) and sit for an examination. The number of officers who have received training in the past 3 years are tabulated below:

		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Induction Training	Probationary Inspectors	151	162	159
	Recruit Constables	587	417	426

In-service Training

Police constables who have served for 5 years are required to attend lectures on how to properly inquire about and handle children and juvenile offenders given by instructors of the Police College in order to develop their empathy and professional sensitivity. A total of 1 914 officers have received relevant training in the past 3 years.

The Police College also organises a non-regular 5-day “Youth-In-Need Engagement Course” for junior police officers. In addition to lectures by instructors of the Police College, officers from the Crime Wing, the Labour Department, EDB, SWD and professionals (including doctors and secondary school principals) are invited to explain the latest situation and policies relating to youth. Visits to youth care organisations and facilities are also arranged to broaden and strengthen officers’ awareness of and ability in dealing with young people.

The Police College has included youth-related training in its command courses to enhance officers’ understanding of young people. A total of 46 superintendents and 237 inspectorate officers have received relevant training in the past 3 years.

Apart from the above-mentioned training, the Force also held a training day on “Understanding and Effective Communication with the Youth” in October 2022 in order to familiarise frontline officers with the latest trends in juvenile delinquency and to improve their professional skills in dealing with juvenile offenders.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB036

(Question Serial No. 0453)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the following items mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24:

- 1) regarding the target to utilise social media to disseminate police messages and provide clarifications and rebuttals against misleading information or allegations on police work, please set out the number of posts published, forwarded and responded to by the Force for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by types of the media and the posts;
- 2) regarding the target to enhance the expertise and capability of police officers in using social media, please provide information on the seminars, training courses and refresher courses attended by police officers for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by the number of participants, key learning areas, amount of subsidies (if any) given to police officers, and the provision for such seminars or training courses; and
- 3) future plans and projects to enhance the capability of police officers to utilise social media, including the projects to upgrade and acquire additional hardware and software equipment and the related expenditure.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

- 1) To provide the public with a better understanding of policing, the Police Force has been using 6 major social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Weibo, Twitter, and WeChat) to disseminate information, introduce policing work and clarify false information. The total number of posts published by the Force on social media platforms for the past 3 years are tabulated below:

	Facebook	YouTube	Instagram	Weibo	Twitter	WeChat (launched in January 2022)
Total number of posts published for the past 3 years	7 051	2 177	1 547	4 187	1 932	374

- 2) To enhance the expertise and capability of police officers in using social media, the Force has incorporated the use of social media in a number of training courses, and regularly reviews and updates the relevant training material. The details of the social media training courses are as follows:

Induction Training

Probationary Inspectors must attend a 4-hour lecture delivered by instructors from the Police College, whereas Recruit Police Constables must attend a 2-hour lecture given by the Police College as well as another 2-hour lecture from the Public Relations Wing. They are also required to sit for an examination.

Promotion and In-service Training

To enhance the capabilities in identifying potential risks in using social media, Inspector and Police Constable graduates are required to undergo 1.5 hour and 45 minutes of training respectively on “Personal Use of Social Media” in their refresher courses. Newly promoted Station Sergeants and Sergeants, on the other hand, are required to attend a 1.5-hour lecture given by instructors of the Police College. Constables who have served for 5 years will attend a 1-hour lecture given by instructors from the Police College. The lecture covers the legislation related to social media, with the goal of enhancing their conduct and discipline in using social media.

The total number of attendance for the related training to police officers for the past 3 years is 8 179. The details are tabulated as follows:

		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Induction Training	Probationary Inspector	151	162	159
	Recruit Police Constable	587	417	426
In-service Training	Inspector	187	145	110
	Station Sergeant	40	118	110
	Sergeant	116	411	340
	Police Constable	1 952	1 521	1 227

- 3) To foster interaction with the public and enhance the transparency of policing work, the Force will keep abreast of the times by reviewing developments in the mass and social media, and will disseminate information via more emerging social media platforms when necessary.

The Force will continue to deploy existing resources for managing the social media platforms in the year ahead. No specific breakdown of the relevant expenditure is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB037

(Question Serial No. 0454)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please provide information on the following items mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24:

- 1) details of the activities organised or co-organised by the Force to promote the Animal Watchers Programme, the organisations or institutions approached, as well as the number of members of the public participating in such activities for the past 3 years;
- 2) whether the Force has organised any activities to enhance police officers' knowledge of animals and heighten their awareness of animal protection; if so, the details of the activities and the number of participants for the past 3 years; if not, the reasons; and
- 3) whether the Force has maintained any statistics on police officers volunteering for animal protection and care groups or organisations; if so, the number of such volunteers.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

- 1) To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Police Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animals lovers at the community level and on online social media platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations. Through organising territory-wide events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2021, AWP carried out large-scale events such as the "AWP Fight Poisoning Campaign" crime prevention promotion, "AWP Plank Challenge" video competition

and “AWP Community Mobile Classroom” public educational programme. In 2022, AWP launched a series of educational and promotional activities under “AWP x 25A”, including the “AWP Colours in 25A” colouring and drawing contest, “Animal Care Corner” promotion at schools and “BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt”. Between 2021 and 2022, over 73 000 people physically participated in AWP events, with approximately 6.2 million engagements recorded online (e.g. social media posts). The Force will continue to raise awareness of preventing cruelty to animals through AWP.

- 2) The Force invites officers from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to explain to the trainees of foundation training programme and Criminal Investigation Course the laws related to cruelty to animals, skills in handling animals, experience in case investigation, and the inter-departmental co-operation mechanism in handling relevant cases. The Force also organises seminars from time to time and invites relevant officers from AFCD, SPCA and the Animal Crime Police Teams to share their experience so that the officers of the Animal Crime Police Teams and frontline officers can have a better grasp of the latest situation and trend of cruelty to animals.
- 3) The Force does not maintain the statistics requested.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB038****(Question Serial No. 0455)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- Please provide the number of assaults on police officers for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by police district, rank, type of crime being dealt with at the time of the assault, and the circumstances of the assault.
- Please advise whether the existing equipment, training and Police General Orders or other guidelines are regularly reviewed in order to better protect the personal safety of police officers on duty; if so, the details.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

- The number of assaults on police officers for the past 3 years by police district is tabulated as follows:

Police region/police district	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island Region	44	51	34
Central District	6	18	18
Wan Chai District	19	14	8
Western District	9	12	3
Eastern District	10	7	5
Kowloon East Region	37	18	15
Wong Tai Sin District	8	3	7
Sau Mau Ping District	16	4	3
Kwun Tong District	4	10	3
Tseung Kwan O District	9	1	2
Kowloon West Region	67	43	29
Yau Tsim District	15	12	15
Mong Kok District	24	9	5
Sham Shui Po District	15	14	5
Kowloon City District	13	8	4
New Territories North Region	34	49	22
Border District	1	3	0
Yuen Long District	15	26	12

Tuen Mun District	13	4	3
Tai Po District	5	16	7
New Territories South Region	35	16	17
Tsuen Wan District	6	7	3
Sha Tin District	12	6	6
Kwai Tsing District	10	1	1
Lantau District	5	1	7
Airport District	2	1	0
Marine Region	0	0	0
Total	217	177	117

The Police Force does not maintain statistics on the type of crime being dealt with at the time of the assault, and the circumstances of the assault.

- 2) The Force attaches great importance to the occupational safety of police officers during their execution of duties, and from time to time examines and enhances the protection offered to officers. By purchasing and renewing operation equipment and protective gear, including helmets, anti-stab vests, cut-resistant gloves, etc., we ensure that the personal safety of frontline officers during their execution of duties will be duly protected.

The equipment, training and guidelines involve the Force's operational deployment details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB039

(Question Serial No. 0456)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

- 1) Please provide details of the relevant programmes, training and the target number of participants in order to enhance the capability of police officers in the handling and investigation of domestic and cohabitation-related violence cases, as well as child abuse cases.
- 2) Please advise whether there is any plan to co-operate with community groups or organisations in order to enhance the Force's capability in handling the above violence and child abuse cases; if so, the details and the number of groups or organisations to work with; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- 1) The Police Force attaches great importance to offences of domestic violence and child abuse. Police officers will handle and investigate such cases with empathy, professionalism, fairness and impartiality.

In order to strengthen frontline police officers' skills and professional sensitivity in handling domestic violence and child abuse cases, as well as their understanding of relevant legislation, the Force has incorporated training courses on skills of handling domestic violence, opposite-sex/same-sex intimate partner relationships, psychology of victims and handling of conflicts into the "Foundation Training Course", "Criminal Investigation Course" and "Promotion and Development Training Course", and regularly reviews and updates the relevant training materials. Details of the training courses on handling and investigating cases of domestic violence are as follows:

Induction Training

Probationary Inspectors must attend a 5-hour lecture delivered by instructors from the Police College, whereas Recruit Constables must attend a 3-hour lecture given by the Police College and another 2-hour lecture from the Crime Wing Headquarters, take a 4-hour scenario-based practical course and sit for an examination. Recruit Constables are

also required to take a 2-hour course titled “Policing Psychology - The Application of Psychological Skills: Handling Conflicts” as well as another 2-hour scenario-based practical course on handling domestic violence and child abuse cases delivered by Honorary College Advisors.

Promotion and In-service Training

Newly promoted Station Sergeants must attend a 3-hour scenario-based practical course, whereas newly promoted Sergeants must attend a 2-hour lecture given by instructors from the Police College and attend a 3-hour scenario-based practical course. Serving Police Constables who have graduated within 2 years are required to attend 3 lectures totalling 2.5 hours delivered by instructors from the Police College and a scenario-based practical course. Meanwhile, serving Police Constables who have been in the service for up to 5 years are required to attend a 1.5-hour lecture given by instructors from the Police College.

Criminal Investigation Training

Inspectors/Senior Inspectors, Sergeants and Constables are required to attend 16 hours of lectures of the “Standard Criminal Investigation Course” given by instructors from the Detective Training Centre of the Police College and honorary lecturers, along with 8 hours of lectures of the “Advanced Criminal Investigation Modules” given by officers from the Crime Wing Headquarters.

The total number of police officers attended the related training for the past 5 years is about 15 490. The details are tabulated as follows:

		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Induction Training	Probationary Inspector	220	163	151	162	159
	Recruit Constable	1 114	703	587	417	426
In-service Training	Station Sergeant	143	58	40	118	110
	Sergeant	479	300	116	411	340
	Police Constable	1 000	648	1 799	1 287	1 263
Criminal Investigation Training	Inspector/Senior Inspector	143	97	126	164	135
	Sergeant	127	90	127	168	94
	Police Constable	496	284	359	509	357

The Force established a secondary duty cadre named the “Vulnerable Witness Support Cadre” in July 2022 with targeted training for about 200 officers to enhance the Force’s professional capability in handling cases involving child abuse. This cadre is responsible for handling vulnerable witnesses, particularly minors. In addition to the “Vulnerable Witness and Child Protection Task Force” jointly set up with the Department of Justice in early 2022, the Force has also been working with the Social

Welfare Department in expediting and enhancing the collection of evidence, prosecution and follow-up on welfare, as well as streamlining the procedures in handling child abuse cases.

- 2) The Force has been adopting a “multi-agency” and “cross-sectoral” collaborative approach in dealing with cases of domestic violence and child abuse, with the twin goals of protecting victims and their families from further abuse and bringing the offenders to justice.

In order to refine the policies and procedures for handling domestic violence and child abuse cases, the Force has been working closely with relevant government departments, NGOs and stakeholders from various professional sectors. Seminars and workshops on the prevention of domestic violence or child abuse have also been organised. Since 2021, the Force has collaborated with related government departments and NGOs to hold the annual “Let’s T.A.L.K.” Child Protection Campaign, with a view to promote public awareness of child protection by means of large-scale education and publicity campaigns, while urging all sectors for early intervention in suspected cases of child abuse.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB040

(Question Serial No. 0457)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In recent months, a number of triad-related violence cases have been reported in various districts in Hong Kong. Knife attacks, in particular, have raised concerns among the general public about their own and the community's safety. Triad-related cases will also tarnish Hong Kong's reputation as one of the world's safest cities. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. the number of triad crimes for the past three years, with a breakdown by police region;
2. whether the Force has conducted any research on the current upward trend in triad crimes;
3. whether the Force will take special actions to solicit additional resources in order to enhance the deterrent effect against triad violence; if so, what those actions will be and how effective they will be; if not, the reason(s);
4. whether the enhancement of the Force Criminal Intelligence System can effectively prevent violence crimes rather than just being used for analysis and investigation; and
5. whether the Force has any plans to strengthen publicity in the community against triad crimes and the related unlawful activities.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. The number of triad-related crimes in each Police Region for each of the past 3 years is as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	245	217	340
Kowloon East	302	465	511
Kowloon West	491	566	661
New Territories North	459	381	598
New Territories South	259	255	438
Marine	5	4	6
Total number of cases reported in Hong Kong	1 761	1 888	2 554

- 2-5. In 2022, there were 2 554 cases of triad-related crimes, representing an increase of 666 cases (+35.3%). The surge was mainly attributed to deception cases, serious gambling offences, cases of taking conveyance without authority, cases concerning procuring/controlling of prostitution, etc. Deception, in particular, saw a significant increase of 514 cases (+667.5%), some of which were associated with the sale of bank accounts by triad members for receiving deception crime proceeds. Meanwhile, there was a slight increase of 12 triad-related cases (+3.7%) on wounding and serious assault when compared to 2021.

Combating triads, syndicated and organised crime is listed as one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Police Force has been maintaining close liaison with local and overseas law enforcement agencies to step up intelligence-led enforcement actions against illegal activities of triads and organised crime syndicates. Meanwhile, proactive measures have been taken to investigate, confiscate and freeze crime proceeds in order to interdict the criminals' sources of income.

The Force has all along been committed to combating triad-related illegal activities. Between May and September 2022, the Force collaborated with Mainland and Macao authorities in an operation codenamed "THUNDERBOLT 2022", during which about 5 500 venues including bars, amusement game centres, cyber cafes and party venues were searched, resulting in the arrest of 3 581 persons and the seizure of \$380 million worth of illicit goods. In November and December 2022, the Force enhanced co-operation with relevant departments and Mainland law enforcement agencies to conduct a large scale anti-triad operation. The Force also carried out an anti-illegal gambling operation codenamed "CROWBEAK cum WINDSHIELD" during the World Cup period, resulting in the arrest of over 1 000 persons, as well as the seizure of betting records valued over \$560 million and over \$10 million cash.

In February 2023, the Force conducted an anti-triad operation codenamed "Levington" and arrested 234 persons suspected of committing various offences, including operating illegal gambling establishment, operating vice establishment, drug trafficking, possession of offensive weapons, criminal damage, criminal intimidation, wounding, using a false instrument, possession of prohibited weapons, carrying on business as a money lender without a licence and money laundering, etc.

On publicity, the Force launched targeted publicity activities in light of crime trends, such as a series of anti-gambling campaigns during the World Cup period, so as to combat triad-related crimes on multiple fronts.

The Force will continue to monitor closely relevant crime trends and take timely intelligence-led enforcement actions against such illegal activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB041

(Question Serial No. 0458)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the prevalence of organised crimes in recent years, will the Government advise on:

1. the number of organised crime cases reported in Hong Kong for the past 3 years (with a breakdown by type of offence);
2. further to the above, the number of cases with investigation concluded and prosecution instituted, the number of cases currently under investigation, and the average time taken to conclude the investigations;
3. the staff establishment and estimated expenditure involved for investigating such organised crime cases; and
4. the initiatives to be taken by the Force to strengthen its efforts in combating organised crimes, particularly those involving foreign or sophisticated syndicates.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- 1-2. The Police Force does not maintain statistics on organised crimes by type of offence.
3. Different police formations are involved in combating organised crime, including the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau, which specialises in investigating organised money laundering; the Commercial Crime Bureau, which specialises in investigating commercial crime; and the Narcotics Bureau, which specialises in investigating organised drug trafficking. As regards triad-related organised crime, investigations are carried out by the anti-triad units of various Police Regions and Districts under the lead of the Organised Crime and Triad Bureau.

The estimated expenditures of the above formations form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditures involved.

4. Combating triads, syndicated and organised crime is listed as one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Force has been maintaining close liaison with local and overseas law enforcement agencies to step up intelligence-led enforcement actions against illegal activities of triads and organised crime syndicates. Meanwhile, proactive measures have been taken to investigate, confiscate and freeze crime proceeds in order to interdict the criminals' sources of income.

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In February 2023, the Force conducted an anti-triad operation codenamed "Levington" and arrested 234 persons suspected of committing various offences, including operating illegal gambling establishment, operating vice establishment, drug trafficking, possession of offensive weapons, criminal damage, criminal intimidation, wounding, using a false instrument, possession of prohibited weapons, carrying on business as a money lender without a licence and money laundering, etc.

The Force will continue to monitor closely relevant crime trends and take timely intelligence-led enforcement actions against such illegal activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB042****(Question Serial No. 1891)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Force has assigned a designated Animal Crime Police Team in each of the 22 police districts with crime investigation units to handle animal cruelty cases across the territory. Please advise this Committee of:

- the total number of reported cases of cruelty to animals received by the Force in each of the past 5 years and, among such cases, the respective numbers of prosecutions and convicted cases, with a breakdown by type of animals; and
- the permanent establishment of the Animal Crime Police Teams and the respective expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- The numbers of cases on cruelty to animals reported to the Police Force, persons arrested, prosecutions instituted and persons convicted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases reported	105	60	70	88	54
Number of persons arrested	41	36	50	55	32
Number of prosecutions instituted	26	27	14	21	15 (as at third quarter)
Number of persons convicted	21	23	13	16	17 (as at third quarter)

The Force does not maintain other information requested in the question.

2. The establishment of Animal Crime Police Team varies in different police districts. In general, a team comprised 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant and 4 to 6 Police Constables. The Force will review the manpower deployment from time to time and make appropriate deployment to meet operational needs.

The expenditure of the Force for investigating such cases falls under the Programme of “Prevention and Detection of Crime”, and no specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB043

(Question Serial No. 1892)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police attaches great importance to animal welfare and strives to combat all acts of cruelty to animals. Regarding the Animal Watchers Programme mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24, please advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the activities organised since the launch of the Programme to enlist public support and assistance in fighting against cruelty to animals, the number of participants and the expenditure involved;
- (2) the number of in-service police dogs and their duties for each of the past 5 years; and
- (3) the expenditure on training police dogs for each of the past 5 years and the respective estimated expenditure for the current financial year.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- (1) To enlist public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Police Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level and on online social platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations. Through organising territory-wide large-scale events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2021, AWP launched a number of large-scale activities, including a crime prevention event titled "AWP Fight Poisoning Campaign", a video competition named "AWP Plank Challenge" and a public education event named "AWP Community Mobile Classroom". In 2022, AWP launched a series of educational and promotional activities under

“AWP x 25A”, including the “AWP Colours in 25A” colouring and drawing contest, “Animal Care Corner” promotion at schools and “BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt”. Between 2021 and 2022, over 73 000 people physically participated in AWP events, with approximately 6.2 million engagements (e.g. social media posts) recorded online. The Force will continue to raise public awareness of preventing cruelty to animals through AWP.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”. No specific breakdown is available.

- (2) The number of serving police dogs for the past 5 years is as follows:

Year	Number of serving police dogs
2019	133
2020	132
2021	137
2022	154
2023	150

Police dogs perform a wide variety of tasks, including patrol, drug detection, tracking, and the detection of explosives, firearms and ammunition, effectively assisting the Force in its day-to-day policing and operations.

- (3) The expenditure of the Police Dog Unit (PDU) includes expenses on the daily operation of PDU bases, dog food, medication and dog training equipment, as well as salaries for dog handlers, supervising officers and civilian staff, and costs for equipment. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the expenditure on training police dogs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB044

(Question Serial No. 2338)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the work of the National Security Department (NSD) of the Hong Kong Police Force, will the Government advise this Committee:

1. whether the work of NSD falls under Programme (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime or Programme (4) Operations;
2. in 2022, (a) the number of reports received by NSD; among such cases, the numbers of those (b) further investigated and (c) found to be substantiated after investigation; as well as the numbers of persons (d) arrested and (e) convicted by court; and
3. (a) the staff establishment and (b) the actual number of employees of NSD with breakdown by rank, as well as (c) the estimated operational expenses for 2023-24, of which the expenditure on (i) salary and (ii) the operation of the NSD Reporting Hotline?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

Since the implementation of the National Security Law, as at 3 March 2023, 243 persons (189 males and 54 females) aged between 15 and 90 were arrested by the Police on suspicion of engaging in acts and activities endangering national security. In these cases, over 140 persons and 5 companies were charged.

The NSD of the Police Force launched the NSD Reporting Hotline on 5 November 2020. As at 24 February 2023, the Hotline has received more than 400 000 pieces of information in relation to national security.

The NSD of the Police Force is a department established under Article 16 of the National Security Law for safeguarding national security; its duties form part of the work in safeguarding national security and do not fall under Head 122. The manpower and expenditure involved in NSD shall not be disclosed to the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB045

(Question Serial No. 2339)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

According to the estimates proposed by the Police, the establishment of police officers is expected to reach 38 265 by 2023-24, which is 132 less than the revised estimate of 38 397 for 2022-23. However, the number of police officers available for deployment is 33 505. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the reason(s) for the reduction in the establishment of the Force;
2. the (a) formations, (b) ranks of officers and (c) the expenditure on salaries for the reduced establishment;
3. whether the difference between the establishment and the number of police officers available for deployment indicates that there are vacancies to be filled; and
4. the measures that the Police will implement in 2023-24 to entice members of the public to join the Force, as well as the estimated relevant expenditure on (a) manpower and (b) publicity.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Wing-yan, Joephy (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. In 2023-24, there will be a net decrease of 132 posts in the Police Force, mainly due to the lapse of time-limited posts which were created in previous years.
2. Details on the posts to be reduced are set out in the following table:

Rank	Net increase/decrease of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)	Monthly salary for the rank in HK\$ (from 1 April 2022)
Superintendent	-1	PPS 50 – 53	124,925-140,410
Senior Inspector/Inspector	3	PPS 24 – 43	48,255-93,905
Station Sergeant	6	PPS 24 – 33a	48,255-71,275
Police Constable	-145	PPS 4 – 17	26,845-39,325
Total (police officers)	-137		
Systems Manager	1	MPS 34 – 44	76,380-112,925
Analyst/Programmer I	2	MPS 28 – 33	60,100-75,620
Analyst/Programmer II	3	MPS 16 – 27	34,185-57,395
Telecommunications Engineer/ Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1	MPS 18 – 44	37,685-112,925
Police Telecommunications Inspector	1	MPS 25 – 33	52,370-75,620
Assistant Police Telecommunications Inspector	3	MPS 14 – 24	30,990-50,080
Traffic Warden	-6	MPS 6 – 12	19,265-27,825
Total (civilian staff)	5		
Total	-132		

The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment in light of policing needs from time to time. For operational effectiveness, it is inappropriate to disclose the details on the reduction of establishment in individual formations.

3. At present, there are approximately 6 000 vacancies in the Force. The Force will continue to proactively strengthen its efforts on recruitment, staff training and career development, etc. Officers are encouraged to make self-advancement and strengthen their own professional capacity so as to serve the Force and members of the public more effectively. Vacancies will be filled through promotion, recruitment and various service extension measures.
4. The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. Meanwhile, the Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various social networking platforms, and has organised regular recruitment activities and projects, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, Police Recruitment On-air, Police Mobile Recruitment Station,

Police Mentorship Programme, Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, Project ACHIEVE, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Experience and Development as well as education and careers expo etc.

To facilitate university students joining the Force, the Force organised the Police University Recruitment Express at 11 local universities between September and October 2022. Moreover, to recruit Hong Kong students in the Mainland and facilitate their early return to Hong Kong for foundation training after graduation, the Force sent a delegation in November 2022 to conduct the first Police University Recruitment Express (Mainland) at Jinan University and Huaqiao University in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively. During the campaign, recruitment information was provided and on-site recruitment selection procedures were initiated.

In October 2022, the Force established the Police Recruitment Centre to provide the public with a channel to learn more about police work and obtain recruitment information. It also facilitates job applications by potential candidates through face-to-face consultation and experience session for selection process. The newly established Police Recruitment Centre provides multiple services, including on-site interviews, appointment making for written examinations or interviews, eye-sight tests and handgrip strength tests, recruitment-related enquiry service as well as virtual reality simulated experience of shooting, etc. Besides, the recruitment centre will arrange regular recruitment talks and police-related thematic exhibitions.

The Force has been adopting a proactive recruitment strategy and will adjust the approach and estimated expenditure of recruitment publicity in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market. The Force will review and assess the effectiveness of using different resources, make suitable manpower deployment and make provisions for publicity as appropriate.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB046

(Question Serial No. 2200)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the TLB.]

Question:

Regarding the operation of the online traffic offence reporting platform Project PROVE (“the Platform”), will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) the monthly numbers of (i) reported cases received and, among such cases, (ii) those referred to the Regional Traffic Investigation Groups for further action, and (iii) prosecutions instituted since the Platform launched in May 2022, with a breakdown by type of offence (e.g. dangerous and careless driving, failure to comply with traffic signs and road markings, etc.); and
- (2) given that the Platform is a WeChat mini-programme, whether the Government will consider developing a mobile application or operating another platform on other social media exclusively for the reporting of traffic offences; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

- (1) Since the launch of the online traffic offence reporting platform Project PROVE in May 2022, the Police Force has received a total of over 58 000 reports, an average of some 5 200 reports per month. More than 41 000 (about 70%) of the reports, covering offences such as “careless driving”, “crossing a continuous double white line” and “failure to comply with traffic signs and road markings”, were referred to the Regional Traffic Investigation Groups for follow-up. After investigation, either fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) or summonses were issued. As of 31 December 2022, the Force had issued over 12 000 FPTs and instituted more than 1 700 prosecutions by summons for reports submitted through the platform. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the other figures requested in the question.

- (2) The Force is currently conducting a comprehensive review on the effectiveness of Project PROVE to improve the reporting efficiency by refining the reporting platform and internal processing procedures, in order to facilitate the public in reporting suspected traffic offences online, with a view to enhance road safety. The Force will from time to time assess the technical feasibility of implementing Project PROVE on other electronic platforms to further facilitate reporting by the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB047

(Question Serial No. 2201)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the Project Guarding Eyes (“the Project”) implemented in Sham Shui Po, will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) in respect of the subsidised closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems installed under the Project, (i) the number of buildings involved and, among them, (ii) the number of crimes detected with the help of CCTV systems; and (iii) the expenditure involved for each of the past 5 years;
- (2) (i) the number of buildings in the district which are currently eligible but not yet enrolled in the Project, (ii) the percentage of these buildings to the total number of eligible buildings in the district, and (iii) their reasons for not enrolling in the Project; and
- (3) whether the Project will be extended to more districts; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon CHAU Siu-chung (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

The Project Guarding Eyes in Sham Shui Po district is subsidised by members of the local community through the Sham Shui Po District Fight Crime Committee. No additional expenditure has been incurred by the Police Force in relation to the project.

The Sham Shui Po District Fight Crime Committee, Sham Shui Po District Office, Sham Shui Po Police District and the Federation of Hong Kong Electrical and Mechanical Industries Trade Unions (“the Federation”) implemented the Project Guarding Eyes in July 2015 to install CCTV systems in low-security buildings in the district with the consent of the owners’ corporations or representatives, with the aim of enhancing building security, building a safer community and preventing crime.

As part of the project, the Sham Shui Po District Office assists to liaise with owners' corporations or representatives and to compile a list of participating buildings, while members of the local community subsidise the installation work carried out by the Federation.

The installation was completed in May 2019 and no additional expenditure was incurred by the Force. Under the project, a total of 111 buildings in the district were equipped with CCTV systems, which aided investigations or led to the detection of 88 cases of crime.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB048

(Question Serial No. 0725)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimated expenditure under this Programme for 2023-24 has increased by 5.1% over the revised estimates for 2022-23. With the number of deception cases surging to 27 923 in 2022, an increase of 45.1% compared to 2021, deception cases such as those relating to online shopping, job search and investment have been rampant. In this connection, will the Government advise on the following:

1. the manpower and expenditure of the Police in 2021-22 and 2022-23 for the prevention and detection of deception cases (including, but not limited to, developing various information and intelligence systems, reviewing anti-crime publicity materials and organising anti-crime publicity activities to address specific crime problems), with a breakdown by type of work;
2. the estimated expenditure of the Police in 2023-24 for the prevention and detection of deception cases, with a breakdown by type of work; also, how much of the estimated increase in expenditure will be spent on preventing and detecting deception cases; and
3. in respect of the anti-crime publicity programmes organised by the Police in 2022 to address specific crime problems, including “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” and “Financial Intermediary Deception”, whether the effectiveness has been reviewed and whether there is any scope for improvement, particularly those targeting the above types of deception?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1-2. Combating quick cash crime, enhancing cyber security and fighting technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Police Force has been taking proactive measures on all fronts to combat deception and technology crimes. The Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) of the Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB), the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime

investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on scams and technology-related crimes. To further enhance the Force's capabilities in combating deception, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub (e-Hub) was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of scams and technology crimes, thereby allowing the Force to combat criminal activities more effectively.

In 2021-22, the ADCC had an establishment of 40, among which 26 were on permanent establishment and 14 were seconded from different Police formations. In 2022-23, the establishment of ADCC increased to 49, with the number of posts on permanent establishment increased by 6 to 32 and the rest taken up by 17 officers seconded from other Force formations. The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment from time to time.

The expenditure for the CCB, ADCC, CSTCB, e-Hub and crime investigation units of all Police Regions and Districts form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditure involved.

3. The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders. Through different platforms and media, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns and large-scale thematic crime prevention activities to raise public awareness of the risks associated with the use of computer, Internet, social media and cyber security, which in turn heighten their alertness to deception.

As part of the Force's ongoing efforts to combat scams, crime prevention messages have been delivered through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Moreover, anti-scam advertisements have been put up across the city, including in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to widely disseminate anti-scam messages and raise public awareness against deception.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. In January 2023, the CSTCB rolled out the "All-round CyberDefence", a cyber security campaign with a variety of activities, including hosting the "Cyber Defenders' Carnival" in the West Kowloon Cultural District and co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers, so as to enhance the public's capability in identifying cyber pitfalls on various fronts. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more

people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

The CSTCB also introduced the “Scameter” in 2022, which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, “Scameter+”, was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

The Force will continue to enhance its publicity efforts in a bid to raise the public’s awareness to deceptions and technology crimes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB049

(Question Serial No. 0726)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the TLB.]

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that the Police will “alleviate traffic congestion strategically and identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences in partnership with other agencies and government departments”. In this connection, please advise on the following:

1. the agencies and government departments with which the police have collaborated, the strategies adopted and the expenditure incurred in alleviating traffic congestion for the past year;
2. whether the Police have reviewed and evaluated the effectiveness of the strategies adopted last year, and whether there are any new strategies to be introduced in the coming year to alleviate traffic congestion, given the numerous traffic congestion blackspots identified across the territory;
3. the definition of “serious parking offences”, and the number of “fixed penalty tickets (FPTs)” issued for “serious parking offences” as defined by the Police, out of all FPTs issued for parking offences under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance; and
4. the details, manpower and expenditure involved in identifying technological solutions to address serious parking offences.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Man-kong (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The Police Force has all along adopted a multi-agency approach, working with the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB), Transport Department and relevant departments as well as District Councils and community stakeholders, to explore and implement

measures to alleviate traffic congestion through public engagement, road engineering and effective enforcement. The expenditure falls under the Programme of “Road Safety”, and no specific breakdown is available.

2. Road safety is one of the Police Force’s operational priorities, and changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow is also among the Force’s Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities. The Force has been very concerned with the illegal parking situation. The Force aims to change the undesirable behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow through publicity and education, and address parking offences through patrols and enforcement actions. Besides, the Force is also committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies worldwide and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement against illegal parking and road traffic obstruction.

Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2021 and 2022, the Force continued to procure additional devices for more frontline officers to issue FPTs accordingly. There are currently around 2 600 portable printers available for use by the Force. In 2022, of the 3 363 471 FPTs issued against illegal parking, 3 075 398 (91.4%) were issued in the above manner, indicating that the enforcement efficiency has been enhanced by the scheme.

3. At present, the Force has not defined what constitutes a “serious parking offence”, and therefore does not maintain any statistics on issuance of FPTs for “serious parking offences”. However, frontline officers will strengthen law enforcement in areas with severe traffic congestion and issuing FPTs without prior warning to vehicles/drivers who commit offences causing serious obstruction and endangering road safety. Where necessary, apart from serving multiple summonses on the offending vehicles and repeatedly prosecuting the drivers concerned, the Force will even tow away the offending vehicles.

The figures on FPTs for illegal parking issued by the Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

	2020	2021	2022
Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued	2 707 869	3 302 160	3 363 471
Number of illegal parking cases handled with tow trucks	3 226	2 997	2 987

4. In addition to the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme mentioned in paragraph (2) above, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be

conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. Meanwhile, the Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB050

(Question Serial No. 0192)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding efforts to combat absconding, please advise on:

- (a) the numbers of persons arrested, convicted and currently wanted for absconding since the National Security Law (NSL) took effect, with a breakdown by month; and
- (b) the most severe sentence handed down to those convicted of absconding since the enactment of the NSL, and the maximum and minimum penalties applicable.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

As at December 2022, of the 10 279 persons who were arrested in connection with the black-clad riots in 2019, 33 were wanted for failing to appear before the court and 25 did not report back to the Police Force in accordance with bail conditions. The Force does not maintain other information requested in the question.

Every individual must take responsibilities, including legal liabilities, for his or her action. The Force strongly condemns attempts to evade legal liabilities by jumping bail and absconding. In light of the actual circumstances, the Force will do their utmost to track down the whereabouts of the fugitive offenders through various means in accordance with the law and arrest them. The culprits will be held legally accountable for jumping bail and the investigation of the original cases will be carried on.

Section 9L of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) stipulates that a person admitted to bail who, without reasonable cause, fails to surrender to custody as shall have been appointed by a court, commits an offence which renders the person liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$75,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months, and on conviction upon indictment to a fine of any amount and to imprisonment for 12 months.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB051

(Question Serial No. 0193)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Regarding the illegal trans-boundary operations by Mainland oyster farmers at Deep Bay, please advise on:

- (a) the manpower currently deployed by the Government to patrol in the waters around Urmston Road, the numbers of patrols conducted and the division of work; and
- (b) the numbers of enforcement actions against illegal activities of Mainland oyster farmers and their effectiveness over the past 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23), as well as the penalties and fines imposed.

Asked by: Hon HO Chun-yin, Steven (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

- (a) The Deep Bay Sub-unit of Marine West Division of the Police Force is responsible for regular patrol and law enforcement in the waters at Deep Bay. The sub-unit currently has an establishment of 66 police officers, comprising 2 Inspectors, 3 Station Sergeants, 18 Sergeants and 43 Police Constables, who are deployed to the Tsim Bei Tsui Marine Police Post, 2 Police barges and their respective patrol craft.
- (b) The numbers of anti-illegal immigration patrols carried out by the Deep Bay Sub-unit in 2020, 2021, 2022 and the first 2 months of 2023 are as follows:

2020	286 patrols
2021	468 patrols
2022	322 patrols
2023 (as at 28 February 2023)	47 patrols

The numbers of Mainland illegal immigrants arrested by the Deep Bay Sub-unit in 2020, 2021, 2022 and the first two months of 2023 are as follows:

Year	Number of persons arrested*	Supplementary notes
2020	3	All illegal immigrants have been referred to the Immigration Department for action. No refusal notice (ID122) was issued to Mainland oyster farmers who were suspected of breaching the requirements.
2021	34	
2022	29	
2023 (as at 28 February 2023)	9	

*Note:

The number of Mainland oyster farmers who illegally entered the territory of Hong Kong has decreased as Hong Kong and Guangdong have tightened border control in light of the COVID-19 outbreak since January 2020. The Marine Outer Waters District, on the other hand, set up a task force in 2021 to strengthen law enforcement actions against illicit cross-border maritime activities arising from prolonged boundary closures, resulting in an increase in the number of persons arrested in 2021 and 2022.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB052

(Question Serial No. 1153)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-yee)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 that the Police Force will promote law abiding awareness through the celebratory campaign of the 50th Anniversary of the Good Citizen Award. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the details and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The “Good Citizen Award” (GCA) scheme was established in 1973, jointly organised by the Police Force’s Public Relations Wing and the Fight Crime Committee, and sponsored by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, to honour good citizens who assisted the Force in fighting crime and upholding law and order in the previous year, thereby promoting law-abiding awareness among the general public. Since 2021, the scheme has been revamped by introducing a new “Good Organisation Award” with a specific nomination mechanism for organisations. To maximize the synergy effect in promoting crime prevention, the original one-day award ceremony has also been expanded to a series of GCA roving exhibitions held throughout the city.

The GCA Presentation Ceremony 2022, which was held in February 2023, recognised 80 good citizens and 7 good organisations for their efforts in preventing and combating crime and saving lives. The Force also arranged for a live broadcast of the ceremony on RTHK and its social media platforms, allowing all Hong Kong citizens to share the joy of the awardees and raise law-abiding awareness.

To celebrate the historic 50th anniversary of the scheme in 2023, the Force has produced a video series featuring the stories of good citizens who have won awards over the past 50 years to widely promote the good citizen spirit through various social media platforms. This year, for the first time, the GCA roving exhibitions were held at major shopping arcades in various police regions to interact directly with the public, with the aim of promoting the Good Citizen Spirit.

All GCA awardees each receives a certificate of merit and prize money of \$3,000. Each of the Good Citizen of the Year Award winners, in addition, is presented with a plaque and prize money of \$4,000. More than 4 500 citizens have been commended since the inception of the Scheme in 1973. For organisations, certificates of merit are presented to winners of the “Good Organisation Award”.

The Force will, as always, continue to co-ordinate resources on all fronts and step up publicity efforts to raise public awareness of preventing and combating crime, upholding law and order, and saving lives. The estimated expenditure for these initiatives forms part of the total expenditure under the Programme “Prevention and Detection of Crime” and no specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB053

(Question Serial No. 1158)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the TLB.]

Question:

It is mentioned that the Force aims to enhance road safety by reducing traffic accidents and maintaining a smooth and safe traffic flow in Hong Kong. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the number of fixed penalty tickets issued by the Police for the past 3 years, with a breakdown by Police District;
2. regarding illegally parked vehicles towed away by the Police in areas where parking offences are rampant and have caused traffic obstructions, please provide the number of enforcement actions taken for the past 3 years; and
3. In recent years, the Police have been making significant efforts to combat traffic offences using technology, including taking enforcement actions by means of mobile video recording. Please advise whether the Police have reviewed the effectiveness of using technology for enforcement, and whether additional equipment will be acquired to facilitate enforcement actions by police officers.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The figures on fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued		
	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	599 218	688 592	624 000
Kowloon East	489 901	570 466	555 417
Kowloon West	631 593	862 992	1 011 084
New Territories South	512 831	584 706	570 895
New Territories North	474 326	595 404	602 075
Total	2 707 869	3 302 160	3 363 471

2. The figures on cases in which the Force towed away illegally parked vehicles by Police Region for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of cases in which illegally parked vehicles were towed away		
	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	919	702	643
Kowloon East	1 129	599	329
Kowloon West	566	921	1 395
New Territories South	482	572	390
New Territories North	130	203	230
Total	3 226	2 997	2 987

3. To enhance the effectiveness and deterrent effect of traffic enforcement, operations of the Mobile Video Teams have been co-ordinated by the Land Regions since 2021. Non-stopper mode has been used and backend processing are handled by Traffic Investigation Groups of respective Regional Traffic Formations.

Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out FPTs in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2021 and 2022, the Force continued to procure additional devices for more frontline officers to issue FPTs accordingly. There are currently around 2 600 portable printers available for use by the Force.

Meanwhile, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. The Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB054

(Question Serial No. 1161)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (001) Salaries
Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The estimate of the amount required in 2023-24 for the salaries and expenses of the Hong Kong Police Force is \$26,841,055,000. This represents an increase of \$1,537,783,000 over the revised estimate for 2022-23 and \$3,510,884,000 over the actual expenditure in 2021-22. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) the reason(s) for the increase in the revised estimate;
- 2) the Force's recruitment plan for the next 3 years, and the measures being taken in respect of grades experiencing recruitment difficulties; and
- 3) in view of public concerns in recent years about the adequacy of police equipment and facilities to deal with different types of crimes and situations, such as technological crimes, whether the Force will adjust the staffing structure and make provision for upgrading equipment and facilities in light of the latest social situation in Hong Kong and in the international community.

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

- 1) The estimated total expenditure of the Police Force for 2023-24 is higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23, mainly due to the increased provision for salaries (including some vacancies expected to be filled in 2023-24) and the increased cash flow requirements for capital items (including the replacement and procurement of plant, crafts, vehicles and equipment). Meanwhile, the estimate for 2023-24 is higher than the actual expenditure for 2021-22, mainly due to the full-year impact on personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades which has taken effect from 1 September 2021, and the increased personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the civil service pay adjustment in 2022-23.
- 2) The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. The publicity

channels employed include advertisements, Recruitment Days, Education & Careers Expo and a series of youth-oriented programmes. The Force will adjust its publicity strategy in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market.

- 3) The Force regularly reviews its staff establishment and makes flexible deployment to meet the policing needs and the service needs of the community. Equipment and gears will also be procured to meet operational needs.

To illustrate, we note that the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) is a formation of the Force that leads the way in combating technology crime. The Force has been reviewing the latest technological developments worldwide and timely introducing appropriate equipment and devices based on actual needs to further enhance its operational effectiveness. The expenditure of the CSTCB forms part of the total expenditure under the Programme "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB055

(Question Serial No. 0264)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned that the Police Force will continue to provide timely clarifications and rebuttals against any misleading information or allegations on police work through multi-media platforms. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the estimated expenditure of the Hong Kong Police Force on tackling false information or rumours for the past 3 years and the coming year, given that the provision for the Information Services Department in respect of public opinion has increased by 7.3% over its original estimate in this year's Budget;
2. the establishment and ranks of the officers currently responsible for monitoring social media platforms;
3. the number of prosecutions instituted by the Force against rumors and false information (with a breakdown by types of cases) for the past 3 years; and
4. the work plans and the daily workflows of the Force on the way ahead in the face of widespread misinformation on the Internet.

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. Noting the proliferation of smartphones and social media, the Police Force has been proactively using the Internet and social media to introduce policing work to the public and clarify false information. The Force deploys existing manpower and resources to conduct fact checking and clarifications. Since the expenditure involved falls under the Programme of "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community", no specific breakdown is available.

2. The duties are mainly undertaken by the fact-checking and clarification centre of the Public Relations Wing, which is currently staffed with 17 members. Its establishment is tabulated as follows:

Rank	Number of officers
Senior Superintendent	1
Superintendent	2
Chief Inspector	2
Inspector/Senior Inspector	5
Sergeant	4
Police Constable/Senior Police Constable	3
Total	17

3. The Force will follow up on any suspected breach of the law. Since 2019, a total of 79 persons were arrested for allegedly committing offences of inciting others on the Internet to engage in illegal acts, including “inciting another to do grievous bodily harm with intent”, “inciting another to commit criminal damage”, and “inciting another to commit arson”.
4. The Force keeps a close watch on the opinions and unforeseen incidents reported on the Internet. If any false or misleading information about the Force goes viral, the Force will proactively provide clarifications through various channels in order to stop the spread of rumours and allay public concerns. In addition to providing explanations through traditional media (such as holding press conferences or briefings and issuing press releases), the Force also actively makes use of the Internet and social media to disseminate information and provide clarifications to the public via the Force’s website and its social media platforms.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB056

(Question Serial No. 2561)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in the Estimates that the Hong Kong Police Force will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to address the problems of juvenile delinquency and youth involvement in crime and drugs. In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee of the allocation of resources to combat the problem of youth involvement in drugs?

Asked by: Hon LAM So-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

Combating dangerous drugs remains one of the Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The work mainly includes (i) enhancing co-operation with other law enforcement agencies to interdict the flow of illicit drugs into Hong Kong; (ii) targeting drug traffickers, particularly those who exploit students and youths; (iii) taking proactive measures to investigate and confiscate proceeds of drug trafficking; and (iv) promoting anti-drug awareness and preventing exposure to drugs among students and youths through multi-agency collaboration and community-based approach.

On prevention and law enforcement, the Police Force will keep up its anti-crime patrols in areas where young people gather so as to shield them from drug exposure through the undesirables. The Force will also keep exchanging information with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies, undertake timely intelligence-led operations, and focus in particular on drug trafficking activities on the Internet and social media. Furthermore, the Force will commit to track down drug syndicates exploiting youngsters and will invoke Section 56A of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) to pursue harsher sentences against such syndicates in order to have a stronger deterrent effect.

On publicity and education, the Force has been working closely with stakeholders like other government departments, schools, parents and teacher associations to collaboratively formulate measures to prevent young people from taking drugs and enhance anti-drug publicity. The Leadership Institute on Narcotics (L.I.O.N.), established by the Force in 2021, provides 100 secondary school and university students each year with a year-long

training in anti-drug knowledge, leadership skills and event planning, with the aim of positively influencing the students and their peers through the participants. In 2022, the Force produced several anti-drug animation clips and videos, as well as a mini-movie “Drug Enticement”, for primary and secondary schools and other stakeholders. In November 2022, the Force also held a large-scale anti-drug exhibition in the West Kowloon Cultural District to actively disseminate anti-drug information to the general public and young people.

The Force will continue to remind young people not to abuse drugs or deliver drugs or items from unknown sources to others through various channels such as online platforms, L.I.O.N., the Junior Police Call and various publicity activities. The Force will also continue to deepen teachers’ and parents’ understanding of youth drug involvement in order to increase the public awareness of the harm caused by drugs and their ability to identify relevant situations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB057****(Question Serial No. 0602)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please provide a breakdown of the additional 69 posts under Programme (2) by rank and salary.
2. Please advise on the reason(s) for the increase of posts and the scope of work of the post holders.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

To cope with operational needs, there will be a net increase of 69 posts (including 67 disciplined services posts and 2 civilian posts) under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime" in the Police Force in 2023-24, which are mainly responsible for implementing digital policing and handling the mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse cases. A breakdown of the additional posts by rank and salary is set out in the following table:

Rank	Net increase/decrease of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)
Chief Inspector	-1	PPS 44 – 49
Senior Inspector/Inspector	1	PPS 24 – 43
Station Sergeant	3	PPS 24 – 33a
Sergeant	12	PPS 17 – 28
Police Constable	52	PPS 4 – 17
Total (police officers)	67	
Analyst/Programmer II	2	MPS 16 – 27
Total (civilian staff)	2	
Total	69	

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB058

(Question Serial No. 1392)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. It is mentioned under Programme (4) that there is a decrease of 173 posts. Please set out the numbers of the respective posts with a breakdown by rank and salary.
2. Please explain the decrease in the number of posts and whether the service will be affected.
3. It is mentioned that the increase in provision of \$630.9 million or 12.3% over the revised estimate for 2022-23, despite a decrease of 173 posts, is mainly due to the provision for salaries and the cash flow requirement for capital items. Please account for the increase in the cash flow requirement and the provision for salaries despite the reduction in the number of posts. Please explain the reason(s) in detail.

Asked by: Hon LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. In 2023-24, there will be a net decrease of 173 posts (i.e. a decrease of 182 disciplined services posts and an increase of 9 civilian posts) under Programme (4) "Operations" in the Police Force. Details on the numbers of posts are set out in the following table:

Rank	Net increase/decrease of posts	Police Pay Scale (PPS)/ Master Pay Scale (MPS)
Superintendent	1	PPS 50 – 53
Chief Inspector	2	PPS 44 – 49
Senior Inspector/Inspector	4	PPS 24 – 43
Station Sergeant	3	PPS 24 – 33a
Sergeant	-2	PPS 17 – 28
Police Constable	-190	PPS 4 – 17
Total (police officers)	-182	
Systems Manager	1	MPS 34 – 44
Analyst / Programmer I	2	MPS 28 – 33
Analyst / Programmer II	1	MPS 16 – 27
Telecommunications Engineer / Assistant Telecommunications Engineer	1	MPS 18 – 44
Police Telecommunications Inspector	1	MPS 25 – 33
Assistant Police Telecommunications Inspector	3	MPS 14 – 24
Total (civilian staff)	9	
Total	-173	

2. The Force regularly reviews its staff establishment and makes flexible deployment to meet the policing needs and the service needs of the community. Meanwhile, the Force has formulated detailed human resources and strategic plans for staff training, career development, etc. Officers are encouraged to make self-advancement and strengthen their own professional capacity so as to serve members of the public more effectively. In general, policing services will not be affected by the reduction in establishment.

3. The estimate for 2023-24 is higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23, mainly due to the increased provision for salaries (including some vacancies expected to be filled in 2023-24) and the increased cash flow requirements for capital items (including the replacement and procurement of plant, crafts, vehicles and equipment).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB059****(Question Serial No. 2235)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Given that various telephone scams have occasionally been identified in the community, please advise this Committee of the following:

- 1) in tabular form (i) the number of telephone scams reported last year, (ii) the age range of the victims; (iii) their educational backgrounds; (iv) whether they were residents or non-residents of Hong Kong, and (v) the amount of losses;
- 2) the age of the youngest victim of telephone scams reported last year; and
- 3) the Police's plans to step up enforcement actions against telephone scam in the coming year.

Asked by: Hon LEE Chun-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

- 1 – 2. The number of telephone deception cases reported to the Police Force and the amount of losses in 2022 are tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases	Amount of losses (HK\$ million)
Telephone Deception	2 831	1,076.47
Pretend Officials	1 290	962.3
Guess Who	1 540	114.1
Detained Son	1	0.07

The victims, who ranged in age from 12 to 100, incurred financial losses in 2 625 cases. The Force does not have other information requested in the question.

- 3) The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies and

industry stakeholders to enhance intelligence exchange, law enforcement and anti-deception publicity on combating and prevention of telephone deception on all fronts.

In July 2017, the Commercial Crime Bureau of the Force established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) to provide round-the-clock service. The ADCC is tasked with monitoring and analysing deception trends with a view to formulating and implementing anti-scam strategies, co-ordinating intelligence-led law enforcement operations and planning anti-deception publicity work. In October 2020, the ADCC set up the Intelligence and Scam Response Team, which is responsible for analysing the money-laundering networks of criminal gangs to further combat telephone scams and other frauds through law enforcement operations.

In end-September 2022, the Force, together with the Office of the Communications Authority and mobile network operators, set up a dedicated working group to formulate measures to block telephone scams at the source, including blocking spoofed calls with the prefix “+852” and stopping the provision of services to local mobile phone numbers involved in scams.

The Force will continue to co-ordinate resources and strengthen multi-agency collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, banking sector, money changers and social media platforms to proactively combat and prevent telephone deception.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB060

(Question Serial No. 2239)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the TLB.]

Question:

Illegal parking is a serious problem in Hong Kong and the Police have taken various counter-measures in recent years. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

- 1) given that an estimated revenue of \$1,269,000,000 is expected from the Fixed Penalty System (Traffic Contraventions) in 2023-24, whether the Police have any plans to conduct operations/acquire additional manpower/equipment in order to achieve this target;
- 2) of the black spots of “illegal parking” and “moving offences” in Sha Tin and Tai Po where regular patrols are required, and the respective number of patrols conducted in each of the past 5 years;
- 3) of the number of cases involving “illegal parking”, “moving offences” and “summons or arrest” in Sha Tin and Tai Po in each of the past 5 years; and
- 4) whether the Police have any plans to introduce appropriate technology to help reduce “illegal parking”, “moving offences” or other traffic contraventions; if so, please provide information, in tabular form, on the cost and effectiveness of the equipment/devices to be used.

Asked by: Hon LEE Tsz-king, Dominic (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

- 1) Road safety is one of the Police Force's operational priorities, and changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow is also among the Force's Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities. The Force has been very concerned about the illegal parking situation. The Force aims to change the undesirable behaviour of road

users that obstruct traffic flow through publicity and education, and address parking offences through patrols and enforcement actions.

Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2021 and 2022, the Force continued to procure additional devices for more frontline officers to issue FPTs accordingly. There are currently around 2 600 portable printers available for use by the Force.

- 2) At present, the Force has not defined what constitutes an “illegal parking” or “moving offences” blackspot and therefore no relevant data on these blackspots is available. Nevertheless, the Force will be stepping up law enforcement in areas with severe traffic congestion and issuing FPTs without prior warning to vehicles/drivers who commit offences causing serious obstruction and endangering road safety. Where necessary, apart from serving multiple summonses on the offending vehicles and repeatedly prosecuting the drivers concerned, the Force will even tow away the offending vehicles.
- 3) The Force handles information on FPTs for illegal parking and other traffic enforcement by Police Region. Therefore, the prosecution figures by District Council district is not available. In the past 5 years, the figures on FPTs for illegal parking issued by the Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region are listed in the following tables:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	385 196	287 149	599 218	688 592	624 000
Kowloon East	351 968	251 430	489 901	570 466	555 417
Kowloon West	517 842	339 549	631 593	862 992	1 011 084
New Territories South	396 975	296 732	512 831	584 706	570 895
New Territories North	374 532	249 884	474 326	595 404	602 075
Total	2 026 513	1 424 744	2 707 869	3 302 160	3 363 471

Police Region	Number of traffic enforcement actions (other than those against illegal parking)				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	93 425	62 047	73 844	83 493	87 368
Kowloon East	80 274	68 732	94 375	90 541	92 281
Kowloon West	98 089	74 123	87 010	123 004	148 032
New Territories South	134 920	120 253	128 317	130 812	132 212
New Territories North	163 404	154 215	139 264	159 003	143 644
Total	570 112	479 370	522 810	586 853	603 537

The Force does not maintain other information or figures requested in the question.

- 4) In addition to the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme mentioned in paragraph (1) above, the Force introduced the Mobile Video Teams (MVTs) in 2019 which record footage of contraventions with mobile equipment and institute prosecutions accordingly, so as to tackle traffic contraventions that cause obstruction. Since 2021, operations of MVTs have been co-ordinated by the Land Regions and non-stopper mode has been adopted in law enforcement.

Meanwhile, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. The Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of "Road Safety", no specific breakdown is available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB061****(Question Serial No. 1431)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the CommunityControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

The list of Indicators shows that the number of summonses (other than traffic summonses) issued by the Police Force recorded 3 000 in 2021 but dropped to 2 367 in 2022, and the number of raids also dropped from 4 428 to 3 715 over the same period. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- a) the reason(s) for the significant drop in both cases last year; and
- b) the relevant data, in tabular form, on the same issue in each of the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)Reply:

- a) - b) The number of summonses (other than traffic summonses) issued and the number of raids conducted by the Police Force for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of summonses	3 878	2 713	3 054	3 000	2 367
Number of raids	11 252	7 955	3 928	4 428	3 715

Since the onset of the fifth wave of COVID-19 epidemic in Hong Kong in February 2022, the Force had mobilised significant manpower to support anti-epidemic efforts throughout the year, including assisting in contact tracing, participating in restriction-testing declaration operations, as well as conducting inspections and enforcement actions against violations of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (the Ordinance) (Cap. 599). Over 30 000 fixed penalty notices were issued for violations of the Ordinance in 2022, a significant increase of 50% from around 20 000 in 2021, impacting on the work of issuing summonses and conducting raids.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB062

(Question Serial No. 1445)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Under the Brief Description, it is mentioned that the Police will continue to organise anti-crime publicity programmes to address specific crime problems, including “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” (including Pretend Officials Telephone Deception), “Financial Intermediary Deception” and “Quickcash Crime”, etc. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- a) a tabular breakdown of various types of online/telephone deception cases for the past 5 years;
- b) the specific measures to be taken by the Police to combat crimes related to online/telephone deception; and
- c) the detection rate of online deception cases involving collaboration with overseas and Mainland criminal investigation agencies for the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon LUK Hon-man, Benson (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

- a) The number of cases of online deception, broken down by common types of online scam, and the number of cases of naked chat blackmail reported to the Police Force in each of the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Online Deception	6 354	5 157	10 716	13 859	19 599
Common types of online scam					
Social Media Deception	2 064	1 678	1 988	3 638	3 605
Online Employment Fraud	150	66	236	1 063	2 884
Online Investment Fraud	338	167	544	980	1 884
Email Scam	894	816	767	549	391
Naked Chat Blackmail	281	171	1 009	1 159	1 402

The number of cases of telephone deception, broken down by type of scam, reported to the Force in each of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Telephone Deception	615	648	1 193	1 140	2 831
Guess Who	262	418	509	497	1 540
Pretend Officials	346	228	683	641	1 290
Detained Son	7	2	1	2	1

- b) The Force has been committed to combating deception and technology crimes. Combating quick cash crime, enhancing cyber security and fighting technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) of the Commercial Crime Bureau, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on scams and technology-related crimes.

To further enhance the Force's capabilities in combating deception, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of scams and technology crimes, thereby allowing the Force to combat criminal activities more effectively.

The Force has been proactively collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders. In September 2022, the Force, together with the Office of the Communications Authority and mobile network operators, set up a dedicated working group to formulate measures to block telephone scams at the source, including blocking spoofed calls with the prefix "+852", assisting users to filter and block hyperlinks involved in cyber deception, and stopping the provision of services to local mobile phone numbers involved in scams. In addition, the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) was set up in December 2022, comprising 12 panel members who are experts and leaders from the academia, the education sector, commercial chambers, the financial sector, the information technology sector, the telecommunications sector and various public entities. The CPAP assists the Force in

formulating short, medium and long term strategic directions in order to strengthen the Force's digital policing capabilities in combating cybercrimes.

Through different platforms and media, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns as well as large-scale thematic crime prevention activities to heighten public alertness to deception. These include delivering crime prevention messages through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Moreover, anti-scam advertisements have been put up across the city, including in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to widely disseminate anti-scam messages and raise public awareness against deception.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. In January 2023, the CSTCB rolled out the "All-round CyberDefence", a cyber security campaign with a variety of activities, including hosting the "Cyber Defenders' Carnival" in the West Kowloon Cultural District and co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers, so as to enhance the public's capability in identifying cyber pitfalls on various fronts. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

The CSTCB also introduced the "Scameter" in 2022, which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, "Scameter+", was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

The Force will continue to co-ordinate resources from different sources and adopt all-around strategies to combat various frauds and technology crimes on multiple fronts, including intelligence exchanges, law enforcement actions, collaboration with overseas partners, cross-agency co-operation and enhanced publicity and education.

- c) Deceptions and technology crimes have no geographical boundaries. Through a close police cooperation mechanism, the Force has been sharing with overseas law enforcement agencies the latest *modi operandi* and information about deception and technology crimes, so as to enable them to take prompt corresponding actions. To strengthen intelligence exchange with the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) and law enforcement agencies of other countries for combating cross-border technology crimes, 1 Superintendent has been seconded to the INTERPOL

General Secretariat in Lyon, France, while 1 Superintendent and 1 Chief Inspector have been seconded to the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore.

The Force has been maintaining close co-operation with law enforcement agencies around the world, including those in the Mainland, Macao, Singapore, Malaysia, European countries and the United States. Over the past 5 years, more than 10 intelligence-led joint enforcement operations have been conducted, resulting in the arrest of at least 200 persons worldwide and the neutralisation of multiple cross-border fraud syndicates involving about 210 deception cases in Hong Kong. The Force does not maintain statistics on the detection rate of such crimes.

Moreover, the ADCC has built up collaborations with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies in intercepting crime proceeds. To further enhance the capability, the ADCC established the International Stop-Payment Mechanism with the Financial Crimes Unit of the INTERPOL in October 2019 to enable most member states to make mutual stop-payment requests, thereby facilitating the Force to combat cross-border deception more effectively. As at December 2022, the ADCC has successfully intercepted more than HK\$11.2 billion in 3 732 deception cases where payments had already been made to local and overseas banks.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB063****(Question Serial No. 0878)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) OperationsControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Regarding the various replacement plans of the Marine Police launches, please provide the types, basic features (total length/crew members/speed), estimated commissioning time, and estimates of expenditure of the launches to be procured, as well as the types of serving police launches that will be replaced by the new ones.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)Reply:

Details of the launch replacement programmes are set out in the following table:

Type of police launch to be procured	Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/Speed)	Estimated commissioning time	Total estimate (\$)	Type of serving police launch to be replaced
Multi-Mission Interceptor	LOA: 10.7 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots	Commissioned in 2019-2020	94.56 million (8 vessels)	Fast Pursuit Craft
Deep Bay Hovercraft	LOA: 8.6 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 30 knots	Delivered in the fourth quarter of 2020	19.995 million (2 vessels)	Searider 5.4 RHIB Craft and Anda RH Craft
High-speed Interception Training Boat	LOA: 11.9 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots	Delivered in the first quarter of 2021	9.898 million (1 vessel)	Confiscated "Tai Fei" Speedboat
Deep Bay High-speed Craft	LOA: 8.5 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 40 knots	Delivered in batches from the third quarter to the fourth quarter of 2021	43.086 million (10 vessels)	Searider 5.4 RHIB Craft and Anda RH Craft

Type of police launch to be procured	Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/Speed)	Estimated commissioning time	Total estimate (\$)	Type of serving police launch to be replaced
High-speed Interceptor	LOA: 13.16 metres OMS: 5 crew Speed: minimum 66 knots	Expected to be delivered in batches from the first quarter to the fourth quarter of 2023	126.31 million (5 vessels)	Damen Cougartek Sea Stalker
Versatile Patrol Units	LOA: 35-37 metres OMS: 16 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the third quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2028	2,218.1 million (12 vessels)	Divisional Command Launch and Keka Launch
Mobile Response and Command Platform	LOA: approximately 40 metres OMS: 19 crew (including one Cook) Speed: minimum 25 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the third quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2026	375.833 million (2 vessels)	Regional Training Launch
Divisional Logistic Launch	LOA: 12-17 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 35 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the first quarter of 2024; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2028	541.9 million (11 vessels)	Seaspray Police Launch
Inshore Patrol Launch	LOA: 8-11 metres OMS: 3 crew Speed: minimum 45 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in 2024; scheduled for delivery in 2026-2027	39.08 million (7 vessels)	Boston Whaler Inshore Patrol Launch
Inshore Patrol Craft	LOA: 16-20 metres OMS: 5 crew Speed: minimum 45 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the fourth quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2026	213.3 million (6 vessels)	Inshore Patrol Craft
The Fifth Police Barge Operating Platform	LOA: approximately 30 metres OMS: 4 crew	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the third quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025	35.762 million (1 vessel)	New item

Type of police launch to be procured	Basic features (Length Overall (LOA)/ Operational Manning Standard (OMS)/Speed)	Estimated commissioning time	Total estimate (\$)	Type of serving police launch to be replaced
Small Boat Divisional Disguised Craft	LOA: approximately 8 metres OMS: 2 crew Speed: minimum 40 knots	Contract expected to be signed in the second quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in the third quarter of 2023	1.53 million (1 vessel)	Confiscated Speedboat
Divisional Fast Patrol Craft Mark IV	LOA: 10.5-12 metres OMS: 4 crew Speed: minimum 55 knots	Invitation to Tender expected to be gazetted in the second quarter of 2023; scheduled for delivery in 2025-2026	201.8 million (12 vessels)	Divisional Fast Patrol Craft Mark I and II

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB064

(Question Serial No. 0884)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. The number of posts of the Police Force in the revised estimate for 2023 reaches 38 397, a significant increase of almost 2 500 posts compared to the establishment of 35 784 posts for 2020. Has the Police reviewed whether there is a practical need for the current establishment?
2. It is learnt that the only new department to be established under the Force since 2020 is the National Security Department. What department is the Force planning to expand that will result in a significant increase in its establishment? What are the reasons for that?
3. Please provide the latest establishment and strength of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

1. In 2020-21, the Police Force had a net increase of 2 543 posts. This compares to a net decrease of 16 posts and a net increase of 7 posts in 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively. The Force will regularly review its establishment in light of policing needs and increase or reduce the number of posts in a timely manner to meet the community's demand for policing services.
2. The additional posts (in both disciplined and civilian grades) created in the Force are for implementing the 4 Programmes, namely (1) "Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community", (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime", (3) "Road Safety" and (4) "Operations". The posts are mainly for, among others, enhancing the Force's responsiveness in handling public order events, strengthening Hong Kong's capabilities in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing, as well as enhancing the Force's intelligence-gathering capabilities and preparedness to combat cyber terrorism.
3. As at 28 February 2023, the establishment and strength of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force were 4 501 and 3 151 respectively.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB065

(Question Serial No. 0885)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Hong Kong is increasingly threatened by home-grown terrorism, with violent acts and terrorist activities going underground and clandestine in the wake of the 2019 black-clad violence. With regard to efforts to address the threat of terrorism, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. whether the security of critical infrastructure computer software and hardware has been strengthened or exercises have been conducted in light of recent cyber attacks by hackers on key infrastructure abroad;
2. the number of counter-terrorism exercises conducted by the Police in the previous year, the government departments involved and the number of officers participating in the exercises; and
3. the expenditure of the Police in the previous year on public education on counter-terrorism, including advertising, school talks, etc., and whether the effectiveness has been evaluated.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

1. One of the key responsibilities of the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) of the Police Force is to protect the information systems of critical infrastructure. The CSTCB works closely with critical infrastructure operators in various sectors so as to enhance its response capability against cyber security incidents and cyber attacks.

In 2022, the CSTCB conducted cyber security exercises with 27 critical infrastructure operators to foster cyber security collaboration between the Force and critical infrastructure operators, as well as to share information on cyber threats and relevant preventive and responding actions in order to enhance critical infrastructure operators'

awareness of prevention and preparedness, as well as their overall defensive capabilities against cyber attacks.

The above work falls under the Programme of “Operations”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure.

2. Last year, the Force conducted 48 counter-terrorism (CT) exercises, which mostly were joint exercises with other government departments and public organisations (such as various disciplined services, Marine Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited, Airport Authority Hong Kong, Aviation Security Company Limited, CLP Power Hong Kong Limited and the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, etc.). These exercises mainly focused on the latest trend of terrorist activities and simulated serial terrorist attacks to test the CT response capabilities and the contingency plans of various government departments and organisations; to optimise the co-ordination and responsiveness of various units; as well as to heighten the public’s CT awareness through publicity and education.

The above work falls under the Programme of “Operations”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the manpower.

3. Through the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU), the Force actively co-ordinates the efforts of member departments, with particular emphasis on the promotion of CT publicity and education to the public, including the important messages regarding “Stay Vigilant to Bomb”, “Run, Hide, Report” and “Spot and Report”.

In the past year, despite the impact of the epidemic, various departments under the ICTU organised dozens of school talks, seminars for different sectors and community activities, reaching out to more than 6 000 people.

In June 2022, the ICTU launched the “CT Reporting Hotline” and “CT reward” to encourage members of the public to provide terrorism or violence-related information and raise public awareness of “Spot and Report”. To enhance promotion of the CT Reporting Hotline and increase the coverage of CT information, the ICTU has promoted the above CT information through various platforms such as television, various mobile applications and websites, public transport, large outdoor television screens and billboards, which have successfully attracted the attention of the general public, allowing them to better understand CT and security messages.

The above work falls under the Programme of “Operations”. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the manpower and expenditure.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB066

(Question Serial No. 0886)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

New uniforms have been introduced for officers on duty in 3 “counter-terrorism tactical units” of the Police Force from 1 July 2022. Please inform this Committee of:

1. the expenditure incurred in procuring the new uniforms; and
2. the functions and features of the new uniforms, and the advantages of the new uniforms over standard police uniforms in the conduct of counter-terrorism operations.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. The expenditure incurred in procuring the new uniforms for the tactical units is part of the Police Force’s operational details. It is inappropriate to disclose such information.
2. Officers of the tactical units are required to work in all weather conditions, conduct high-profile patrols in high-risk locations and respond immediately to emergencies. As the original outfits were not designed for tactical use, the Force considered it necessary to design new uniforms for the tactical units with reference to the practices of relevant law enforcement agencies in the Mainland and overseas in order to enhance their utility, comfort and protection, so that the officers can perform their duties under various extreme conditions and thus improve their operational effectiveness.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB067

(Question Serial No. 0887)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. With the resumption of cross-border travel for Hong Kong after three years of the pandemic, please advise whether the Police have any plans to invite police officers from the Mainland or overseas to visit Hong Kong or to send officers abroad for exchange and training; if so, what are the formations involved and the estimated expenditure of the exchange activities.
2. A number of Police's specialised units, including the Counter Terrorism Response Unit and the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau, have participated in exchange and training activities with Western countries ever since their establishment. Please advise whether the unjustified sanctions imposed on Hong Kong by foreign countries in recent years have had any impacts on the exchange and training for police officers, and whether the Police have any plans for regular exchange and training in collaboration with relevant Mainland counterparts.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. "Preparing the Workforce to Meet Emerging Challenges" is one of the four strategic directions promulgated by the Police Force. The Force has been actively enhancing national studies training and broadening officers' global perspectives through mutual visits as well as training and exchange activities with Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies in order to improve the expertise and capabilities of police officers for coping with various challenges in the future.

As the pandemic subsides, officers have been sent abroad for training since September 2022. With the full resumption of cross-border travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Force is in the process of resuming Mainland training and exchange programmes, and has been making significant efforts to explore new training opportunities, such as arranging exchange and study tours to Mainland for newly recruited Probationary Inspectors and Recruit Constables to deepen their understanding of national history and current development of China. The formations involved in exchange and training activities on the Mainland and abroad included the Crime Wing,

Operations Wing, Information Systems Wing and Security Wing. In addition, the Force has also resumed command courses organised by the Police College for officers from other local and overseas law enforcement agencies to widen their perspectives.

The Force's estimated expenditure on the Mainland and overseas development and training programmes is about HK\$8 million for the financial year 2023-24.

2. The Force's human resources strategy places a strong emphasis on broadening the horizons of police officers and enhancing their professionalism through exchanges with the Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies. As such, the Force has maintained exchanges with other related organisations in various areas of law enforcement work to enhance the expertise and skills of officers in certain disciplines. The Force will continue to organise regular exchange and training programmes with the Mainland and overseas counterparts, as well as other academic institutions, in order to effectively improve the law enforcement efficiency and professional capabilities of police officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB068

(Question Serial No. 0888)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Due to the social atmosphere and the decline in labour force, the number of police recruits this year falls to a 3-year low. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

1. the total expenditure last year on various police recruitment campaigns, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Days, the Police University Recruitment Express conducted in Hong Kong and the Mainland, the Police Mobile Recruitment Station, and the Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Experience and Development, as well as the effectiveness of these recruitment exercises; and
2. the number of auxiliary police officers appointed as regular police officers since 2020.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

1. The Police Force has been adjusting its publicity strategy in light of general social conditions such as the economic situation and demand in the labour market. Different forms of collaboration have also been adopted in order to make more cost-effective use of resources for promoting recruitment. The Force does not maintain breakdown figures on the expenditure involved.

The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. Meanwhile, the Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various media and social networking platforms, and has organised regular recruitment activities and projects, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, Police Recruitment On-air, Police Mobile Recruitment Station, Police Mentorship Programme, Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, Project ACHIEVE, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Experience and Development as well as education and careers expo, etc.

To facilitate university students joining the Force, the Force organised the Police University Recruitment Express at 11 local universities between September and October 2022. Moreover, to recruit Hong Kong students in the Mainland and facilitate their early return to Hong Kong for foundation training after graduation, the Force sent a delegation in November 2022 to conduct the first Police University Recruitment Express (Mainland) at Jinan University and Huaqiao University in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province respectively. During the campaign, recruitment information was provided and on-site recruitment selection procedures were initiated.

In October 2022, the Force established the Police Recruitment Centre to provide the public with a channel to learn more about police work and obtain recruitment information. It also facilitates job applications by potential candidates through face-to-face consultation and experience sessions for selection process. The newly established Police Recruitment Centre provides multiple services, including on-site interviews, appointment making for written examinations or interviews, eye-sight tests and handgrip strength tests, recruitment-related enquiry service as well as virtual reality simulated experience of shooting, etc. Besides, the recruitment centre will arrange regular recruitment talks and police-related thematic exhibitions.

2. The number of auxiliary police officers appointed as regular police officers since 2020 is tabulated as follows:

Financial year	Number of officers	
	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
2020-21	21	20
2021-22	24	19
2022-23 (As at 28 February 2023)	21	12

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB069

(Question Serial No. 0961)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Operations

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. Please set out in tabular form the purchase price, average maintenance cost and operating expenses for the regular and small specialised crowd management vehicles (“SCMVs”).
2. Please set out in tabular form the purchase price, average maintenance cost and operating expenses for the Unimog armoured personnel carriers and the new Sabertooth armoured vehicles.
3. Please provide information on the progress of the procurement and replacement of the Police’s specialised vehicles, and set out in tabular form the items purchased and the expenditure incurred, as well as the items currently under purchase and the estimated costs.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

1. The 3 regular SCMVs and 3 small SCMVs currently in use by the Police Force were commissioned in August 2018 and June 2022 respectively. Since the purchase price, average maintenance cost and operating expenses of these vehicles are part of the restricted tender details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.
2. The 6 Sabertooth armoured vehicles currently in use by the Force were commissioned in June 2022 to replace all the 6 Unimog armoured personnel carriers. Since the purchase price, average maintenance cost and operating expenses of the Sabertooth armoured vehicles are part of the restricted tender details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.
3. Details of items and expenditure on the Force’s specialised vehicles procured and delivered in 2022-23 are as follows:

<u>Type of Vehicle</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u> <u>(\$ million)</u>
Replacement and Procurement of Police Large Motorcycle	250	91
Replacement and Procurement of PTU Bus	57	99
Replacement of Police Medium Motorcycle	82	24
Procurement of VIP Protection Cross-country Vehicle	2	8
Total	<u>391</u>	<u>222</u>

Since the expenditure for the replacement of the 6 armoured personnel carriers and the procurement of the 3 small SCMV's are part of the restricted tender details, it is inappropriate to disclose such information.

To meet the developmental and overall operational needs in the coming year, the provision under Subhead 695 "Police specialised vehicles (block vote)" will be used for replacing and procuring 243 specialised vehicles in 2023-24. Details are as follows:

<u>Type of Vehicle</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Replacement and Procurement of Police Large Van	111
Replacement and Procurement of Large Van for the Police Dog Unit	6
Replacement and Procurement of PTU Bus	6
Replacement of Police Large Motorcycle	34
Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle	30
Replacement of Police Small Patrol Car	10
Replacement of Medium Goods Vehicle	3
Replacement of Large Saloon (Special Duties)	2
Replacement of Cross-country Vehicle (Special Duties)	1
Replacement and Procurement of Police Small Motorcycle ^(Note)	36
Procurement of Large Van for the Special Duties Unit (Police Dogs) ^(Note)	1
Procurement of Autotruck ^(Note)	3
Total	<u>243</u>

(Note: Replacement/acquisition work that has been allocated funding before 2023-24 will continue in 2023-24 in accordance with the procurement procedures.)

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB070

(Question Serial No. 2622)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (4) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Following the “black-clad violence” incidents in 2019, foreign countries have unreasonably sanctioned Hong Kong by banning the sale of various types of firearms to Hong Kong’s disciplinary forces. Additionally, the production of US-made 0.38 calibre Smith and Wesson Model 10 revolvers has been discontinued. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The Police once indicated that they had decided to replace the existing pistols with Chinese-made models. What is the progress of the “firearms replacement exercise” and the estimated total expenditure to be involved?
2. How long is it estimated to take to train frontline police officers to become proficient in the use of Chinese-made pistols after switching to Chinese-made models; and
3. Other Police firearms, such as submachine guns, shotguns and semi-automatic rifles, are all manufactured by Western countries. To avoid the risk of future sanctions by the West, will the Police consider gradually replacing all firearms with those made in China, or using firearms from low-risk origins?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Police Force has from time to time reviewed the equipment and training of police officers to ensure that their equipment and training can meet actual operational needs. The Force keeps watch on various types of equipment from around the world, including the Mainland. In light of operational needs, the necessary equipment is procured and appropriate training is provided to officers in accordance with the Government’s established procurement procedures.

The procurement of equipment and provision of relevant training are details of the Force’s operational deployment. It is thus inappropriate to disclose such information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB071

(Question Serial No. 1278)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 under this Programme, it is mentioned that the Hong Kong Police Force will, among others, utilise social media platforms to disseminate crime prevention messages to the public. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the Police Force's expenditure and manpower involved in related work and its effectiveness in 2022-23, the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved in related work in 2023-24, as well as any specific plans to disseminate crime prevention messages on social media platforms to combat cyber crime.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Police Force has been using 6 social media platforms including Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Weibo and WeChat to promote crime prevention. To foster interaction with the public, enhance the transparency of policing work and deepen the public's understanding of police initiatives, the Force will keep abreast of the times by reviewing developments in the social media and by keeping track of how social media has been utilised by the general public, and will disseminate information via other social media platforms when necessary. In light of the latest crime trends, the Force has also produced crime prevention videos for broadcast on social media platforms so as to disseminate anti-deception and anti-crime messages in a simple and lively way, with the aims of raising awareness of crime prevention among people of all ages and levels, as well as interacting with the public in the fight against crime.

Making use of social media platforms, the Force has launched different thematic anti-deception and anti-crime campaigns, such as "Anti-Drugs Month", "Anti-Money Laundering Month", "Anti-Deception Season" and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory". These activities were organised both online and offline, along with conventional media and support of key opinion leaders on the Internet, to ensure a wider public reach and better publicity.

To help the public identify scams and online pitfalls, the Force has widely promoted anti-scam and anti-crime messages as well as useful tools such as “Scameter” and “Scameter+” through various social media and channels, such that members of the public may immediately assess deception risks and obtain fraud-related information, thereby raising public awareness against deception.

In 2022, the Force published 5 310 posts on 6 social media platforms, namely Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Weibo and WeChat.

The Hong Kong Police Facebook page was launched in October 2015, attracting more than 520 000 followers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police YouTube Channel was launched in March 2013, attracting more than 170 000 subscribers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police Instagram page was launched in November 2016, attracting more than 85 000 followers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police Twitter page was launched in January 2019, attracting about 92 000 followers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police Weibo page was launched in January 2019, attracting about 530 000 fans (as at 3 March 2023).

The Hong Kong Police WeChat official account was launched in January 2022, attracting about 100 000 followers (as at 3 March 2023).

The Force’s social media platforms are mainly managed by the Multi-media Communication Division of the Public Relations Wing, which is currently led by 1 Superintendent and staffed with an additional 27 police officers and 2 contract staff members who are responsible for managing the Force’s social media platforms. In the coming financial year, the Force will continue to deploy existing manpower and resources for managing the social media platforms. The expenditure to be involved falls under the Programme of “Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community”, and no specific breakdown is available.

The Force will continue to step up its publicity efforts to provide the public with information on deception and crime prevention through various channels. The effectiveness of publicity campaigns will be reviewed in a timely manner. To better deter deception and prevent crime, the Force will also strengthen collaboration with stakeholders to promote anti-deception and crime prevention for all.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB072

(Question Serial No. 1279)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24 under this Programme that the Force will, among others, enhance its capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the expenditure and manpower involved as well as its effectiveness for 2022-23. Please also advise on the estimated expenditure and manpower to be involved, the respective plans, and whether additional manpower and new equipment will be required for enhancing the Force's capability in tackling technology crime and financial investigation in the coming 2023-24; if so, the details.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

The Police Force is committed to taking proactive measures to combat technology crime and money laundering activities, primarily through the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (FIIB).

In 2022-23, the establishment of CSTCB and FIIB comprise police officers of ranks ranging from Police Constable to Chief Superintendent, with 344 and 216 officers respectively. In 2023-24, the establishment of police officers in CSTCB will increase by 51 to 395, while that of FIIB will remain unchanged. The estimated expenditure for these 2 formations forms part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Enhancing cyber security and combating technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Force will continue to enhance its capability in combating technology crimes and handling cyber security incidents, as well as stepping up collaboration, intelligence exchange and law enforcement with relevant stakeholders and law enforcement agencies, such as the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In addition, the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) of the CSTCB was set up in December 2022, comprising 12 panel members who are experts and leaders from the academia, the education sector, commercial chambers, the

financial sector, the information technology sector, the telecommunications sector and various public entities. The CPAP assists the Force in formulating short, medium and long term strategic directions in order to strengthen the Force's digital policing capabilities in combating cybercrimes.

Meanwhile, the Force has been strengthening its professional capability in financial intelligence analysis and financial investigations, including the founding of the Money Laundering Expert Cadre in October 2022, a volunteer secondary duty cadre with 3 Superintendents, 7 Chief Inspectors and 15 Inspectors to assist the frontline in investigating money laundering cases and to testify as expert witnesses in court hearings. A provision of \$698 million has also been secured from the Legislative Council for the FIIB to develop a Financial Data Analytic Platform that harness advanced technologies and big data analytics tools to strengthen the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system. The Force will continue to enhance the knowledge and techniques of police officers and the industry stakeholders in financial investigation, as well as the mechanism for collaborating with local financial institutions, international organisations, and Mainland and overseas law enforcement agencies to combat money laundering.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB073

(Question Serial No. 1280)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the TLB.]

Question:

It is mentioned in Matters Requiring Special Attention under this Programme that the Hong Kong Police Force will, among others, enhance the efficiency and overall accuracy of traffic enforcement through the wider use of technology, including e-Ticketing; work closely with relevant government departments including the Transport Department and other stakeholders to develop and launch the Traffic e-Enforcement System; and work closely with the Transport Department on the planning and commissioning of the expansion project of the Speed Enforcement Camera System and the Red Light Camera System. In this connection, please advise this Committee, with breakdown statistics and supporting information, of the expenditure and manpower involved in electronic traffic enforcement, its effectiveness, and the extent of growth in enforcement efficiency and enforcement figures for 2022-23. Please also provide information on the estimated expenditure and manpower for 2023-24, plans to improve the efficiency and accuracy of traffic enforcement through wider use of technology, as well as specific plans and performance targets.

Asked by: Hon NG Kit-chong, Johnny (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

Since March 2020, the Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2021 and 2022, the Force continued to procure additional devices for more frontline officers to issue FPTs accordingly. The number of electronic FPTs issued has increased from 2 366 658 in 2021 to 3 075 398 in 2022 (up by 30%). In 2022, of the 3 363 471 FPTs issued against illegal parking, 3 075 398 (91.4%) were issued in the above manner, indicating that the enforcement efficiency has been enhanced by the Scheme.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of “Road Safety”, and no specific breakdown is available.

Meanwhile, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force’s efficiency in traffic management. The Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB074

(Question Serial No. 0777)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Section 4C of the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228) requires that a performance licence (permit) shall be obtained in advance for a dragon/lion dance activity. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

- a. the number of applications for permits received by the Police Force and the respective results (e.g. permit issued/application rejected) in each of the past 5 years; and for the applications rejected, the justifications of the Police;
- b. in respect of the activities for which permits were issued in the past 5 years, whether there were illegal acts which breached the conditions of the permit when such activities were conducted; if so, the details and how these cases were handled;
- c. the number of cases in which the dragon/lion dance activities were carried out without licence (including the number of law enforcement actions taken and complaints received) in each of the past 5 years; and the respective results (including a breakdown by the number of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted, and the penalties imposed, etc.);
- d. in respect of the Government's Licensing E-Service launched in September 2020 that enables organisers to apply for permits and submit required documents through Police's public website and save time from queuing and submitting applications at report rooms, please provide details on the application and handling processes, including the number of application, processing time and workflow; and
- e. whether the Government has any plans to review the existing statutory provisions for regulating dragon/lion dance activities; if so, the details and time of the review; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon NGAN Man-yu (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

- a. The number of applications for dragon/lion dance permits (permits) received by the Police Force in each of the past 5 years is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications for permits	Number of permits issued	Number of exemptions granted	Number of applications objected
2018	2 429	2 421	7	0
2019	2 605	2 364	49	0
2020	1 112	989	31	4
2021	133	4	0	21
2022	270	71	17	8

Note : Since the figures are based on the dates when applications are received/permits are issued/applications are objected, the sum of the numbers of permits issued, exemptions granted and applications objected may not equal to the total number of applications for permits in the same year.

There are established procedures and guidelines in the Force for processing permit applications. Each and every application is considered in a holistic manner to determine whether a permit should be issued. The Force will consider an array of relevant factors, including the venue, time and nature of the activity being organised, the impact on traffic and residents, the background of the organiser and its past record, and whether the activity will be used for illegal purposes. If it is satisfied that the activity will not involve lawbreakers and will not jeopardise public order and public safety, a permit will be issued with appropriate conditions for the organiser to follow in managing the dragon/lion dance activity. The Force has put in place an exemption mechanism to grant exemptions for activities that do not involve illegal acts or have no impact on public order, such as those organised by the Government or schools.

- b&c. The Force does not maintain statistics on breaches of permit conditions or cases of dragon/lion dance activities performed without a licence. If violations of permit conditions are identified, the Force will take appropriate enforcement action based on the facts of individual case.
- d. In September 2020, the Force rolled out Licensing E-service, allowing applicants to apply for permits and submit necessary documents via the Police Public Page and save time from queuing and submitting applications at report rooms.

The number of permit applications submitted through Licensing E-service since September 2020 is tabulated as follows:

Year	Number of applications
2020 (from September to December)	3
2021	67
2022	160
2023 (from January to February)	241

The performance pledge for processing a permit application is 14 working days.

- e. The Force has been monitoring the existing mechanism and maintaining close liaison with the trade. Reviews will be conducted as appropriate in an effort to refine the application procedures.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB075

(Question Serial No. 3036)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The number of deception cases in Hong Kong has continuously hit record highs in recent years. Despite the Police Force's efforts to raise the public's anti-deception awareness through frequent updates on social media and posters across the city, telephone scam remains prevalent, with even highly educated or professional individuals falling victim to scammers using "old tricks in new ways". In 2017, the Police established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) to specifically combat deception and co-ordinate the publicity efforts of all relevant departments in fighting the crime. In this connection, please inform this Committee:

1. of the number of deception cases, number of victims, amounts involved, as well as the numbers of cases detected and persons arrested for the past 3 financial years, with a breakdown by type of crime (e.g. telephone scam, online scam, etc.);
2. in tabular form, of the number of deception cases involving multi-level marketing and fraudulent financial intermediaries, the amount involved, as well as the numbers of cases detected and persons arrested for the past 3 financial years;
3. in light of the increasingly rampant online scams, whether additional manpower and resources will be solicited for the ADCC in 3 key areas, namely, intelligence sharing and law enforcement, cross-agency collaboration, as well as publicity and education, so as to prevent deception, strengthen law enforcement, intercept fraudulent funds and raise public awareness of anti-deception; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s);
4. of the number of deceptions and frauds related to electronic consumption vouchers reported to the Police and the amounts involved and; among them, the number of cases involving theft of personal data for the collection of vouchers or cashing out vouchers at a discount;
5. further to the above, with the Financial Secretary about to disburse another round of consumption vouchers, whether the Police have formulated targeted strategies to combat

deceptions and frauds related to electronic consumption vouchers; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s); and

6. whether technology should be enhanced to combat deceptions and frauds, for instance, funding can be made available to: A) create a big data analysis platform to gather and analyse relevant data on online scams, such as the time and location of the offence, the modus operandi and the victim profiles, which will promptly identify the patterns and trends of online scam through data analysis and mining, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of enforcement actions; and B) use artificial intelligence technology, such as machine learning and natural language processing, to automatically identify and filter false information and spam, thereby reducing online scams.

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

1. The number of deceptions and frauds reported to the Police Force, the detection rate, the amount involved and the number of persons arrested in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases	15 553	19 249	27 923
Detection rate	11.1%	10.6%	12.0%
Amount involved (HK\$)	Note	Over 6.4 billion	Over 4.8 billion
Number of persons arrested	2 058	2 835	4 112

Note: The Force has not maintained statistics on the amount involved in deception cases until 2021.

The common types of deception and fraud reported to the Force as well as the amount involved in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	Number of cases			Amount of losses (HK\$ million)		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Online Deception	10 716	13 859	19 599	2,945.6	2,965.8	3,073.8
Common types of online scam						
E-shopping Fraud	6 678	6 120	8 735	122.3	71.5	74.1
Social Media Deception	1 988	3 638	3 605	259.1	669.4	779.0
Online Employment Fraud	236	1 063	2 884	10.5	85.3	459.1
Online Investment Fraud	544	980	1 884	266.3	472.0	926.5
Email Scam	767	549	391	2,247.4	1,538.8	751.1
Telephone Deception	1 193	1 140	2 831	574.8	811.1	1,076.5
Guess Who	509	497	1 540	26.0	27.5	114.1
Pretend Officials	683	641	1 290	548.8	783.5	962.3
Detained Son	1	2	1	0.01	0.1	0.07

The Force does not maintain any breakdowns on the numbers of victims, arrestees and cases detected by the above-mentioned types of deception and fraud.

2. The number of deceptions and frauds reported to the Force involving financial intermediaries, the number of cases detected, the amount involved and the number of persons arrested in each of the past 3 years are tabulated as follows:

	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases	446	148	95
Number of cases detected	50	18	11
Amount involved (HK\$ million)	85.4	43.2	38.5
Number of persons arrested	139	96	59

No case of deception and fraud involving multi-level marketing practices has been reported to the Force for the past 3 years.

3. In July 2017, the Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB) of the Force established the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) to provide round-the-clock services. The ADCC is tasked with monitoring and analysing deception trends, formulating and implementing anti-scam strategies and enhancing on-going multi-agency collaboration with relevant law enforcement agencies, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the banking sector, money changers and social media platforms to co-ordinate intelligence-led enforcement operations and plan anti-deception publicity work. As at December 2022, the ADCC has successfully intercepted more than HK\$11.2 billion in 3 732 deception cases where payments had already been made to local and overseas banks. In October 2020, the ADCC set up the Intelligence and Scam Response Team, which is responsible for analysing the money-laundering networks of criminal gangs to further combat telephone scams and other frauds through law enforcement operations.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crime, the ADCC organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including “Anti-Deception Month” in February, “Anti-Deception Season” from May to August, “Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims” in October and “Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory” from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

At present, the ADCC has an establishment of 49, among which 32 are on permanent establishment and 17 have been seconded from different Force formations. In 2023-24, the permanent establishment will be increased to 37. The Force will timely adjust the manpower and resources for anti-deception publicity in light of the latest crime trends in the coming year.

- 4-5. As at December 2022, a total of 1 332 cases related to consumption vouchers have been reported to the Force. The CCB will continue to maintain close contact with the

Secretariat of the Consumption Voucher Scheme (the Secretariat) and the operators of stored value facilities, so as to exchange information and take timely follow-up actions and law enforcement actions as appropriate. In June and December 2022, the CCB conducted two large-scale law enforcement operations in collaboration with the Secretariat, resulting in the detection of nearly 300 cases and the arrest of 49 persons.

The Force does not maintain other information requested in the question.

6. The Force is committed to taking proactive measures to combat deception and technology crime, including the use of technology to facilitate the detection and prevention of these crimes. In September 2022, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub was established to provide a one-stop platform for the receipt, analysis and referral of electronic reports of technology crime and deception. Correlation analysis has been carried out using an enhanced computer system, which has allowed the Force to respond to public reports more quickly and handle the cases more effectively. Furthermore, the Financial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau secured a funding of \$698 million from the Legislative Council for the development of the Financial Data Analytic Platform, which will use advanced technology and big data analytics tools to enhance the analytical capabilities of the financial intelligence system, thereby fostering the Force's crackdown on fraud-related money laundering activities.

The Force has been proactively using technology to heighten public awareness of anti-deception. In 2022, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau introduced the "Scameter", which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, "Scameter+", was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB076

(Question Serial No. 3039)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Policing is tough, dangerous and involves long working hours. Besides, since the “anti-extradition amendment bill movement”, there has been some misunderstanding about the Police, leading to a drop in the number of applicants joining the Force. With the gradual restoration of social order, the number of applications has rebounded. In order to make the Force more competitive in the job market, the Police announced an adjustment to the entry requirement for new recruits in March last year to align with the practice of other local disciplined services. The requirement to have lived in Hong Kong for at least 7 years has been removed and all Hong Kong permanent residents are eligible to apply. Even still, the vacancy rate stands at 16%, the highest of all government departments. In face of the wave of retirement, the Police Force needs to expedite the recruitment process. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. The number of frontline police officers successfully recruited by the Force in the past financial year (including Inspectors of Police and Police Constables), with a breakdown by age, gender, education level and whether they are permanent residents living in Hong Kong for at least 7 years.
2. The slogan “It's Never Too Late” was used by the Police to attract elder applicants in previous recruitment exercises. Please set out in tabular form the number of police officers successfully recruited in the last financial year by age group (e.g., 30 to 35, 36 to 40, and over 40) and rank.
3. Please provide information on measures being taken to increase manpower and lower the persistently high vacancy rate, in addition to the option for officers to choose to retire at the raised retirement age, the Continued Service of Police Officers Beyond Prescribed Retirement Age Scheme, and recruitment measures targeting at Hong Kong students in the Mainland.

Asked by: Hon SHANG Hailong (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. A breakdown of the number of police officers the Police Force recruited in 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023) by age and gender is set out in the following table:

Age	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
20 or below	0	7
21-25	36	121
26-30	36	152
31-35	33	112
36-40	8	32
41 or above	17	13

Probationary Inspector		Police Constable	
Male	Female	Male	Female
86 (66%)	44 (34%)	334 (76%)	103 (24%)

All of the newly recruited probationary inspectors in 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023) possessed educational qualification at university level or above. Among the police constables recruited, about 22% possessed educational qualification at university level or above, 16% at post-secondary level, 13% at secondary level and 49% were holders of Yi Jin Diploma.

In 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023), the Force has recruited 2 police constable who have not been permanent residents of Hong Kong for at least 7 years.

2. The number of police officers aged 30 or above upon recruitment in 2022-23 (as at 28 February 2023), by age group and rank, is set out in the following table:

Age	Probationary Inspector	Police Constable
31-35	33	112
36-40	8	32
41 or above	17	13

3. The Force has been adopting proactive recruitment strategies to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competencies to join the Force. Meanwhile, the Force has disseminated recruitment and publicity information through various media and social networking platforms, and has organised regular recruitment activities and projects, such as the Police Recruitment Experience and Assessment Day, Auxiliary Police Recruitment Express, Police Recruitment On-air, Police Mobile Recruitment Station, Police Mentorship Programme, Auxiliary Undergraduate Scheme, Project ACHIEVE, Police Recruitment Buddies Scheme, Sportsmen's Programme for Recruitment, Experience and Development as well as education and careers expo, etc.

To facilitate university students joining the Force, the Force organised the Police University Recruitment Express at 11 local universities between September and October 2022. Moreover, to recruit Hong Kong students in the Mainland and facilitate their early return to Hong Kong for foundation training after graduation, the Force sent a delegation in November 2022 to conduct the first Police University Recruitment Express (Mainland) at Jinan University and Huaqiao University in Guangdong Province and Fujian Province

respectively. During the campaign, recruitment information was provided and on-site recruitment selection procedures were initiated.

In October 2022, the Force established the Police Recruitment Centre to provide the public with a channel to learn more about police work and obtain recruitment information. It also facilitates job applications by potential candidates through face-to-face consultation and experience sessions for selection process. The newly established Police Recruitment Centre provides multiple services, including on-site interviews, appointment making for written examinations or interviews, eye-sight tests and handgrip strength tests, recruitment-related enquiry service as well as virtual reality simulated experience of shooting, etc. Besides, the recruitment centre will arrange regular recruitment talks and police-related thematic exhibitions. The Force will continue to adopt proactive recruitment strategies based on the human resources situation in the market to attract high calibre candidates who possess the required competence to join the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB077

(Question Serial No. 2092)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned that the Police Force will maintain law and order by deploying officers to perform patrol duties and monitor crime trends. In view of the influx of people resulting from the full resumption of social activities and cross-border travel, please advise whether additional resources and manpower will be sought to ensure order and security at and around popular tourist attractions and to deal with cases related to inbound visitors; if so, the details.

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

Since normal travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland fully resumed on 6 February 2023, the Police Force has been closely monitoring the situation in various districts, including the people flow, traffic, and law and order issues. The Force will continue to maintain close liaison with relevant government departments and community stakeholders in order to exchange views and assess the situation in a timely manner, with a view to examining the policing needs and deploying police manpower accordingly.

The Force will continue to provide timely assistance and maintain effective liaison with the Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Department, Tourism Commission, Mainland law enforcement agencies and other relevant departments in handling cases involving inbound visitors.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB078

(Question Serial No. 1857)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Prevention and detection of crime is a Force-wide priority with various crime units. Although stability has been generally restored in Hong Kong in more than two and a half years since the implementation of the National Security Law, the Police have noticed that some people with ulterior motives have been inciting others on the Internet to commit acts in contravention of the National Security Law. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following:

1. the respective number of arrests and prosecutions, details of the illegal acts involved and the acts of inciting others on the Internet to violate the National Security Law, as well as whether actions are being taken by the Police; if so, the details; if not, the reasons;
2. the number and types of reports received through the National Security Department (NSD) Reporting Hotline launched in 2020 and the Counter-terrorism Reporting Hotline launched last June, as well as how the cases were handled; and
3. the details of implementing the 8 items for the Commissioner's Operational Priorities 2023, which include safeguarding national security, enhancing public safety and strengthening counter-terrorism efforts.

Asked by: Hon TAN Sunny (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

1. Since the implementation of the National Security Law, as at 3 March 2023, 243 persons (189 males and 54 females) aged between 15 and 90 were arrested by the Police on suspicion of engaging in acts and activities endangering national security. In these cases, over 140 persons and 5 companies were charged.

In a bid to prevent and detect crimes, the Police Force will conduct "online patrols", and will hold the persons or organisations involved in illegal activities liable for their criminal acts. In fact, law enforcement agencies have successfully taken enforcement

actions against a number of cases involving publication (including online publication) of seditious information and suspected of violating the NSL.

2. The National Security Department (NSD) of the Police Force launched the NSD Reporting Hotline on 5 November 2020. As at 24 February 2023, the Hotline has received more than 400 000 pieces of information in relation to national security. The NSD of the Police Force is a department established under Article 16 of the National Security Law for safeguarding national security; its duties form part of the work in safeguarding national security and do not fall under Head 122.

To encourage the public to report incidents of suspected terrorism and violence and to promote the “Spot and Report” campaign, the Force launched the “Counter-terrorism Reporting Hotline 63-666-999” in June 2022. The Hotline, managed by the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU) to enhance the synergy of intelligence across departments, has reporting options via SMS and WeChat. As of end-February 2023, the Hotline had received over 13 000 reporting messages, some of which had even led to the detection of certain cases.

Members of the public can also report to the Force via the ICTU’s website and email.

3. The Commissioner’s Operational Priorities 2023 set out the key operational areas which the Force will accord priority to during the year. They are a continuation of the priorities identified last year with refinements to reflect current operating environment and key challenges in the year ahead. Successful implementation of the priorities will strengthen the Force’s ability to sustain efforts for maintaining a safe and stable Hong Kong. The Commissioner’s Operational Priorities 2023 have been uploaded to the Police Public Page. For details, please visit the following website:
https://www.police.gov.hk/ppp_en/01_about_us/cop.html

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB079

(Question Serial No. 1644)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In 2022, there has been a significant increase in the number of deceptions and frauds in Hong Kong. Regarding the Police's efforts to combat these rampant crimes, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the manpower and expenditure involved in the previous year to combat deceptions and frauds;
- 2) whether additional officers will be deployed in the coming year to strengthen efforts to combat deceptions and frauds, as well as the manpower and expenditure to be involved;
- 3) the manpower and expenditure to be involved to step up anti-deception publicity in the coming year; and
- 4) how the overall public awareness of anti-deception will be raised in the coming year, as well as the details of the plan(s).

Asked by: Hon TAN Yueheng (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- 1) - 3) Combating quick cash crime, enhancing cyber security and fighting technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Police Force has been taking proactive measures on all fronts to combat deception and technology crimes. The Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) of the Commercial Crime Bureau (CCB), the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on scams and technology-related crimes. To further enhance the Force's capabilities in combating deception, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub (e-Hub) was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of technology crimes

and scams, thereby allowing the Force to combat criminal activities more effectively.

In 2021-22, the ADCC had an establishment of 40, among which 26 were on permanent establishment and 14 were seconded from different Force formations. In 2022-23, the establishment of ADCC increased to 49, with the number of posts on permanent establishment increased by 6 to 32 and the rest taken up by 17 officers seconded from other Force formations. In 2023-24, the permanent establishment will be increased to 37. The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations and adjust the establishment from time to time.

The expenditures for the CCB, ADCC, CSTCB, e-Hub and crime investigation units of all Police Regions and Districts form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditures involved.

- 4) The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders to raise public awareness of the risks associated with the use of computer, Internet, social media and cyber security through large-scale thematic crime prevention activities, which in turn heighten their alertness to deception.

To address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale thematic publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" and "Anti-Money Laundering Month" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December. The Force also launched a one-stop scam and pitfall search engine, "Scameter", to help the public identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

In 2023, the Force will continue to co-ordinate resources, strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders and enhance publicity to raise public awareness of deception. Initiatives promoting anti-deception including the "All-round CyberDefender" campaign and the mobile application "Scameter+" have been kick-started. The Force is planning to organise another round of "Anti-Deception Month" and "Anti-Money Laundering Month", and is also organising a speech competition and teacher training workshops on the theme of cyber security, as well as producing a simulation game on online scams to continue to raise public awareness of anti-deception on all fronts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB080

(Question Serial No. 1230)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Following the “Animal Watch Scheme” launched in October 2011, the Hong Kong Police Force will continue to implement the “Animal Watchers Programme” in 2023-24 to raise public awareness in the fight against cruelty to animals. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

(a) in tabular form, the numbers of complaints received, investigations concluded, patrols conducted, recommendations made, warnings issued and prosecutions instituted in relation to cruelty to animals for the past 5 years;

(b) the number of activities organised to disseminate messages on caring for animals and prevention of cruelty to animals to the community for the past 5 years and the number of participants in each of the activities; and

(c) whether the effectiveness of “Animal Watchers Programme” has been reviewed; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

(a) The numbers of cases on cruelty to animals reported to the Police Force, persons arrested, prosecutions instituted and persons convicted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance for the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of cases reported	105	60	70	88	54
Number of persons arrested	41	36	50	55	32
Number of prosecutions instituted	26	27	14	21	15 (as at third quarter)
Number of persons convicted	21	23	13	16	17 (as at third quarter)

The Force does not maintain the other information requested in the question.

- (b)-(c) In 2011, the Force launched the Animal Watch Scheme in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, the Department of Food and Environmental Hygiene, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), veterinary associations and animal welfare groups to combat cruelty to animals in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation. The scheme aims at consolidating co-operation among various stakeholders and enhancing the efficacy of the Force’s efforts in the investigation of such cases. In 2017, the College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences of the City University of Hong Kong was also invited to take part in the scheme.

To enlist more proactive public support and assistance in combating acts of cruelty to animals, the Force implemented the Animal Watchers Programme (AWP) in 2021, with a view to agglomerating the strengths of animal lovers at the community level and on online social platforms in the 4 directions of education, publicity, intelligence-gathering and investigation; raising public awareness on prevention of cruelty to animals; and encouraging the public to report in a timely manner and provide information that could help investigations. Through organising territory-wide events involving different communities and age groups, AWP aims to strengthen the awareness and care of the general public on the issue of cruelty to animals and animal welfare, as well as to disseminate the message of prevention of cruelty to animals effectively to the public.

In 2021, AWP carried out large-scale events such as the “AWP Fight Poisoning Campaign” crime prevention promotion, “AWP Plank Challenge” video competition and “AWP Community Mobile Classroom” public educational programme. In 2022, AWP launched a series of educational and promotional activities under “AWP x 25A”, including the “AWP Colours in 25A” colouring and drawing contest, “Animal Care Corner” promotion at schools and “BYOP (Bring Your Own Pet) Treasure Hunt”. Between 2021 and 2022, over 73 000 people physically participated in AWP events, with approximately 6.2 million engagements recorded online (e.g. social media posts).

The Force will continue to raise public awareness of preventing cruelty to animals through AWP and adopt a multifaceted approach in evaluating its effectiveness by a variety of indicators, including the numbers of cases reported and persons

arrested as well as the level of overall public engagement. At present, most of the cases of cruelty to animals are reported to the Force by members of the public who voluntarily offer information for investigation. This shows that AWP has a significant impact on enhancing police-community co-operation and raising public awareness of combating cruelty to animals.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB081

(Question Serial No. 1244)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the TLB.]

Question:

It is mentioned that one of the duties of the Police Force is to work closely with relevant agencies and government departments to identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) the respective numbers of fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking, both electronic and paper, issued by the Police Force in the 5 Police Regions in each of the past 3 years;
- (b) the number of enforcement actions against illegal road racing conducted and the number of FPTs issued by the Police Force in the 5 Police Regions in each of the past 3 years; and
- (c) regarding the trial scheme on the average speed camera system conducted by the Transport Department which was completed in 2019, the number of speeding cases successfully collected through this trial scheme and whether the scheme will be formally launched; if so, the proposed locations, construction costs and timetable for the installation of the system.

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

- (a) The figures on both electronic and handwritten fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) for illegal parking issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued					
	2020		2021		2022	
	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic	Handwritten	Electronic
Hong Kong Island	294 009	305 209	191 500	497 092	81 520	542 480
Kowloon East	317 543	172 358	195 357	375 109	28 931	526 486
Kowloon West	347 326	284 267	216 708	646 284	76 906	934 178
New Territories South	368 824	144 007	184 200	400 506	52 787	518 108
New Territories North	311 372	162 954	147 737	447 667	47 929	554 146
Total	1 639 074	1 068 795	935 502	2 366 658	288 073	3 075 398

- (b) The enforcement figures on speeding handled by the Force in 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 245 994, 266 333 and 265 283 cases respectively. The Force does not maintain a breakdown of the figures on prosecutions for illegal road racing.

The figures on enforcement actions taken by the Force against speeding by Police Region for the past 3 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Enforcement figures on speeding		
	2020	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	29 102	24 563	29 380
Kowloon East	53 567	47 728	43 132
Kowloon West	31 647	49 005	70 508
New Territories South	50 512	50 114	47 211
New Territories North	81 166	94 923	75 052
Total	245 994	266 333	265 283

- (c) The Transport Department (TD) is conducting a trial scheme on the average speed camera system, and the Force is in discussion with TD on details such as system interfacing, technical improvement, workflow and resources. More information will be released in due course when the details are finalised.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB082****(Question Serial No. 1251)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

It is mentioned that the Police Force will, among others, strengthen its response in tackling deceptions and frauds through the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub and Anti-Deception Coordination Centre. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the expenditure of the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre as a percentage of the estimate for Programme (2): Prevention and Detection of Crime;
- (b) the number of deceptions and frauds reported and successfully detected as well as the amount of money intercepted in each of the past 5 years; and
- (c) whether the Police Force will allocate additional resources to crack down on crimes relating to telephone deceptions, corporate-level email scams and online romance scams, provided that the losses are still high and show signs of rising; if so, the details; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon TIEN Puk-sun, Michael (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure of the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre (ADCC) form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime". The Police Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditure involved.
- (b) The number of deception cases reported to the Force, the number of cases detected and the amount of crime proceeds intercepted in each of the past 5 years are tabulated as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of deception cases	8 372	8 216	15 553	19 249	27 923
Number of cases detected	1 560	1 082	1 723	2 042	3 347
Amount of crime proceeds intercepted (HK\$ billion)	1.23	3.04	3.07	2.35	1.36

- (c) Combating quick cash crime, enhancing cyber security and fighting technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Force has been taking proactive measures on all fronts to combat deception and technology crimes.

The ADCC of the Commercial Crime Bureau, the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on scams and technology crimes. The establishment of ADCC increased from 40 to 49 in 2022-23, with the number of posts on permanent establishment increased by 6 to 32 and the rest taken up by 17 officers seconded from other Force formations. In 2023-24, the permanent establishment will be increased to 37 to further implement the combating strategies and anti-scam publicity. To combat criminal activities more effectively, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of scams and technology crimes.

The Force will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach by keeping close liaison with other government departments, law enforcement bodies, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders, in a bid to step up intelligence exchange and anti-deception publicity for combating and preventing deception on all fronts.

Through different platforms and media, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns as well as large-scale thematic crime prevention activities to heighten public alertness to deception. These include delivering crime prevention messages through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Moreover, anti-scam advertisements have been put up across the city, including in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to widely disseminate anti-scam messages and raise public awareness against deception.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. In January 2023, the CSTCB rolled out the "All-round CyberDefence", a cyber security campaign with a variety of activities, including hosting the "Cyber Defenders' Carnival" in the West Kowloon Cultural District and co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers, so as to enhance the public's capability in identifying cyber pitfalls on various fronts. Meanwhile, the ADCC made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

The CSTCB also introduced the “Scameter” in 2022, which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, “Scameter+”, was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB083

(Question Serial No. 1721)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, vehicles and equipment
Programme: Not specified
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The expenditure of the Police Force under the capital account for plant, vehicles and equipment for 2023-24 is estimated at \$808 million, much higher than the revised estimate of \$43 million for 2022-23. It is also higher than the original estimate of \$507 million for 2022-23. Please explain the reasons for the significant increase in the estimated expenditure for these items, the reasons why both the actual expenditure and the revised estimate for these items have been much lower than the original estimate in the past two years, and the reasons for the relatively high original estimate, given that both the actual expenditure and the revised estimate for these items have been much lower than the original estimate in the past two years.

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

In preparing the estimates of the capital account for plant, vehicles and equipment, the Police Force has taken into account the actual progress of the project items when assessing the annual cash flow requirements. For the past 2 years, the actual expenditure and revised estimates for the project items have been lower than the original estimates, mainly due to changes in the project progress as compared with the original. The original estimates for 2023-24 is higher than that for 2022-23, mainly due to an increased cash flow requirement for the procurement and replacement of plant, vehicles, and equipment for the Force.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB084

(Question Serial No. 1722)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In view of the current widespread of deceptive advertisements on the Internet impersonating government officials and political or business celebrities, will the Police formulate any specific plans and key performance indicators (KPIs) in 2023-24 to combat such crimes? If so, what are the details and expenditure to be involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) of the Police Force is committed to combating technology crimes. CSTCB conducts regular online patrols and will investigate suspected illegal activity on the Internet and, where appropriate, request Internet service providers and social media platforms to remove relevant content.

The Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach to heighten public alertness to different types of deception by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders, and by organising large-scale thematic crime prevention activities. The Force has no plans to formulate KPIs for a specific type of deception.

The Force has been taking proactive measures to raise public alertness to deception through various channels, including delivering crime prevention messages through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Anti-scam advertisements have also been put up across the city, including in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to widely disseminate anti-scam messages and raise public awareness against deception.

Furthermore, to address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale publicity activities in 2022, including “Anti-Deception

Month” in February, “Anti-Deception Season” from May to August, “Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims” in October and “Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory” from November to December, in a bid to raise public awareness of emerging or prevalent scams. In January 2023, the CSTCB rolled out the “All-round CyberDefence”, a cyber security campaign with a variety of activities, including hosting the “Cyber Defenders’ Carnival” in the West Kowloon Cultural District, co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers, etc., so as to enhance the public’s capability in identifying cyber pitfalls on various fronts. Meanwhile, the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre made an effort to reach out to more people by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

The CSTCB also introduced the “Scameter” in 2022, which allowed users to identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email addresses, URLs, etc. Its mobile version, “Scameter+”, was later released in February 2023, facilitating the general public to spot deception and online traps.

The expenditure of the CSTCB forms part of the total expenditure under the Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB085

(Question Serial No. 1723)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
(2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Recently, there have been rumours of alleged attempts to abduct young children in various districts of Hong Kong, causing concern among many parents. How many reports has the Police Force received in the past 3 years on alleged or suspected cases of stealing, abduction, imprisonment and kidnapping of children under 15? How many of these involving possible criminal elements were substantiated for investigation or prosecution, and what were the age, gender and nationality of the suspects being investigated or prosecuted? Have the Police taken any measures to dispel public doubts? If so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

Between 2020 and February 2023, the Police Force received 1 case involving “kidnapping and child stealing” which occurred in 2021 and was solved. The Force does not have other information requested in the question.

The Force is very concerned about rumours of alleged child abduction attempts and will immediately follow up and investigate such allegations. To allay public concerns, the Force will step up patrols in the vicinity of the incidents and release details of the investigation as soon as possible. Members of the public should immediately report to the Force if they come across any suspicious persons or have any relevant information.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB086****(Question Serial No. 1724)**Head: (122) Hong Kong Police ForceSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (1) Maintenance of Law and Order in the Community
(2) Prevention and Detection of CrimeControlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)Director of Bureau: Secretary for SecurityQuestion:

Please advise this Committee of the total number of prosecutions for illegal begging instituted by the Police Force from 1 March 2020 to 1 March 2023 and, among them, the number of Hong Kong non-permanent residents prosecuted, as well as their nationalities and means of entry into Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)Reply:

The numbers of arrests and prosecutions for illegal begging instituted by the Police Force from 2020 to 1 March 2023 are tabulated as follows:

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023 (As at 1 March)
No. of persons arrested (figures in brackets give the number of Mainlanders with two- way permits)	6 (2)	1 (0)	0 (0)	10 (8)
No. of persons prosecuted	6	0	0	10

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB087

(Question Serial No. 1725)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

The Police Force has been organising a series of anti-crime publicity programmes from 1 March 2020 to 1 March 2023 to address specific crime problems, including “Social Media Deception”, “E-shopping Fraud”, “Naked Chat Blackmail”, “Email Scam”, “Online Employment Fraud”, “Online Investment Fraud”, “Telephone Deception” (including Pretend Officials Telephone Deception), “Money Laundering”, “Youth Crime”, “Drug Abuse and Trafficking”, “Sexual Assault”, “Financial Intermediary Deception” and “Quickcash Crime”, etc. In this connection, please provide specific information on the publicity work and expenditure involved. Please also indicate whether the effectiveness of the publicity work has been assessed and reviewed, and whether key performance indicators (KPIs) have been set to assess the effectiveness of future publicity work; if so, the findings of the assessments and reviews, as well as the specific KPIs; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

The Police Force has been adopting a multi-agency approach by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders. Through different platforms and media, the Force has conducted various anti-crime publicity and educational campaigns and large-scale thematic crime prevention activities to raise public awareness against various crimes including deception, technology crime, money laundering and youth crime.

The Force has disseminated crime prevention information through TV and Radio Announcements in the Public Interest, social media platforms, mass media, public housing estates, public hospitals and major shopping malls. Moreover, anti-scam advertisements have been put up in tunnels, on public transport (e.g. MTR train compartments, trams, bus bodies) and on large outdoor advertising displays. In addition to organising activities, talks and seminars on crime prevention for employees of various trades and students of all levels of education (i.e. tertiary, secondary and primary), the Force has also distributed and displayed posters and promotional materials to raise public awareness against deception.

Other initiatives include broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings.

To address different types of crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale anti-crime publicity activities in 2022, including

- “Anti-Deception Month” and “Anti-Deception Season”;
- “Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims”, which provided analysis of scammers’ tactics from psychological perspectives;
- “Anti-Money Laundering Month”, which reminded the public not to rent, lend or sell their bank accounts to others for any purposes;
- “Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory”, which attract the public’s attention to defrauding tricks by displaying bogus deceptive advertisements;
- “Scameter”, a scam and pitfall search engine, and its mobile version “Scameter+”, which facilitate the public instantly identify suspicious phone numbers, email addresses, payment accounts, etc. so as to assess the risk of fraud;
- “Anti-Drugs Campaign 2022”, a large-scale anti-drug campaign;
- Second cohort of “Leadership Institute on Narcotics”, which disseminated anti-drug messages to youngsters, with the aim of positively influencing the students and their peers through the participants; and
- “Let’s T.A.L.K.”, the large-scale educational and publicity campaign which arouse awareness on child protection among the industry stakeholders and the public.

As part of its ongoing efforts to raise public awareness of preventing and fighting crime, the Force will continue to step up publicity and take forward more crime prevention initiatives, including the “All-Round CyberDefence”, a cyber security campaign, as well as co-organising with the Education Bureau workshops with training kits for secondary and primary school teachers. The expenditures involved for the above initiatives form part of the total expenditure under Programme (2) “Prevention and Detection of Crime”. The Force does not maintain the breakdown of the expenditures involved.

The Force has no plans to formulate KPIs for a specific type of crime and will, as we have always done, continue to put forward initiatives on crime prevention and detection.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB088

(Question Serial No. 2694)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the TLB.]

Question:

Regarding the crackdown on illegal parking, please inform this Committee of:

1. the respective numbers of traditional handwritten and electronic fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) issued against illegal parking last year, and the expected timeline for the full implementation of e-Ticketing;
2. the respective numbers of FPTs issued in the past 3 years that were settled before deadlines, overdue with fines being imposed and still unpaid; and
3. the details and estimated expenditure for the Police Force to work closely with relevant agencies and government departments to identify technological solutions to address serious parking offences.

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

1. Since March 2020, the Police Force has launched in phases the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme in all police districts across the territory. Frontline enforcement officers have since been able to access or input data on illegally parked vehicles via their mobile devices and instantly print out fixed penalty tickets (FPTs) in order to reduce human errors in issuing handwritten FPTs, thereby enhancing the overall enforcement accuracy. In 2022, the Force issued a total of 3 363 471 FPTs for illegal parking, in which the numbers of handwritten and electronic FPTs were 288 073 (8.6%) and 3 075 398 (91.4%) respectively.

Subject to the existing legal framework, the Force is required to issue handwritten tickets/notices demanding payment of fixed penalty for traffic contraventions under Cap. 237 and Cap. 240. Meanwhile, the Transport and Logistics Bureau is planning to introduce a bill into the Legislative Council (LegCo) in 2023 to facilitate the issuance of electronic FPTs.

The implementation timetable for e-Ticketing has yet to be confirmed. To allow flexibility in enforcement, it is recommended that the option of issuing FPTs in paper form be retained after the legislative amendment.

2. For the past 3 years, the Force issued 2 707 869 FPTs for illegal parking under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) in 2020, 3 302 160 in 2021, and 3 363 471 in 2022. The Force does not maintain the other figures requested in the question.
3. In addition to the e-Ticketing Pilot Scheme mentioned in paragraph (1) above, the Force is currently developing a new Traffic e-Enforcement System to facilitate the electronic processing of FPTs and summons applications for traffic offences. The system will also process all information and data relating to traffic enforcement, which will be conducive to enhancing the Force's efficiency in traffic management. The Force will also develop a public-oriented website dedicated to electronic traffic enforcement, through which members of the public can view their electronic FPTs and handle related matters online.

In June 2021, a funding of \$352 million was secured from the Finance Committee of the LegCo for the development of the system. The system is currently under preparation and the first phase of the implementation is expected to be launched within 2023.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB089

(Question Serial No. 0329)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

1. In face of increasingly complicated security situation in Hong Kong, will the Department make enhancements to staff training, equipment, etc.? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
2. Will the Department strengthen its collaboration with the Mainland counterparts in terms of training and equipment, such as sending officers to the Mainland for training and procuring more security equipment from the Mainland? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ying-ho, Kennedy (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

1. In view of the ever-evolving public order situation in Hong Kong, the Police Force has kept pace with the times by upgrading its training and equipment to ensure that frontline officers are confident and competent in dealing with a wide range of situations.

The Force provides training to both new recruits and serving officers through various means including face-to-face courses, training modules, e-learning platforms, and using technologies such as virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and 360-degree panoramic projection, to ensure that police officers perform their duties effectively and use firearms and force appropriately. In light of the surge in technology crimes and deception in recent years, the Force has enhanced the training on criminal investigation to address such crimes. In addition, driving simulators have been introduced to improve officers' skills in operating police vehicles and vessels so that they can more effectively conduct land and maritime enforcement operations and maintain public safety. The Force has also strengthened training on counter-terrorism and national security, and relevant topics have been included in the examinations for police officers.

To enhance police officers' enforcement capabilities in handling major public order events and maintaining public order, all new recruits and promotees of all ranks are

required to undergo relevant training and scenario-based practical courses at the Police College. Legal knowledge, handling of general public order events, media relations, and public safety management are among the topics covered in the trainings. Officers deployed to the Police Tactical Unit are also required to receive specialised training in the handling of major public order events and maintaining public order.

Furthermore, the Force has regularly conducted drills of varying scales and themes to assess the readiness of frontline officers and the interface of the units within and outside the Force.

The Force has from time to time reviewed its equipment to ensure that it copes with the actual operational needs of the officers. The Force always keeps watch on the equipment of various kinds available from the Mainland and elsewhere in the world and will procure suitable equipment in accordance with the operational needs and the government's established procurement procedures. Information on the procurement of equipment is part of the Force's operational deployment details. It is thus inappropriate to disclose such information.

2. To better safeguard law and order, the Force has established and maintained strategic partnerships with Mainland law enforcement agencies, as well as proactively arranging for officers to participate in trainings and exchange programs on the Mainland. With the full resumption of normal travel between the Mainland and Hong Kong, the Force is preparing to resume training programmes and exploring new training opportunities to enhance officers' knowledge of the history and current development of China, furthering their understanding of policing in the Mainland, and thus raising the professional competence of police officers.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**SB090****(Question Serial No. 2928)**

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

In relation to crime detection, please advise this Committee of:

- 1) the number of reported vehicle thefts in the past 2 years (i.e. 2021 and 2022), with a breakdown by the location where the vehicle was parked before being stolen and the type of vehicles and, among them, the number of stolen vehicles recovered;
- 2) whether the Police have looked into the reasons for the rise in taxi theft in recent years, as claimed by members of the taxi trade; if so, the details; and
- 3) the measures taken by the Police to combat vehicle theft and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

1. The number of vehicles stolen and recovered in Hong Kong and their respective types in 2021 and 2022 are as follows:

	No. of stolen vehicles		No. of recovered vehicles	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Total	535	769	367	529
Private car	213	326	143	227
Motorcycle	217	290	136	175
Light goods vehicle	45	64	35	47
Taxi	32	62	29	55
Medium goods vehicle	16	15	13	13
Others (including heavy goods vehicle and public light bus)	12	12	11	12

The parking locations of vehicles before theft in 2021 and 2022 are as follows:

	2021	2022
Total	535	769
On the streets (including parking meters)	447	634
Car parks	40	64
Others	48	71

2. In 2022, 62 taxis were reported stolen, an increase of 93.8% as compared to 32 in 2021. Nearly 90% of the taxis were stolen on the streets between dusk and dawn. Some drivers were negligent in keeping their keys properly during changeover, leaving them vulnerable to vehicle theft and theft from vehicle.

3. The Force will continue to closely monitor crime trends, step up patrols as appropriate and take intelligence-led enforcement actions to tackle vehicle theft. The Force will also promote anti-theft awareness among vehicle owners through publicity and education, and liaise with the relevant industry stakeholders, including car park operators and freight forwarding and logistics organisations, to provide them with security advice to enhance the security measures of their premises. Timely crime-prevention announcements will also be broadcast to taxi drivers through taxi consoles to raise awareness among taxi drivers on vehicle theft prevention.

The Force's expenditure and estimated expenditure on combating vehicle theft fall under Programme (2) "Prevention and Detection of Crime", no specific breakdown is available. The Force will review the manpower and resources allocated to various formations from time to time and, if necessary, adjust the establishment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB091

(Question Serial No. 2929)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Road Safety

Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

[Note: The question below concerns matters under the policy purview of the Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB). The reply was prepared by the Hong Kong Police Force and vetted by the TLB.]

Question:

In relation to road safety, please provide a breakdown on the number of Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) issued for illegal parking in the past two years (i.e. 2021 and 2022) by Police Region. In addition to law enforcement, please also provide details of the Police's work plans in 2023 for ensuring road safety by reducing road obstruction, as well as the expenditure to be involved.

Please also advise whether, in light of the introduction of electronic FPTs, the "type of vehicle" will be included in the tickets, and whether the data on the FPTs will be shared with the Transport Department for reference in planning parking spaces for different types of vehicles, thereby improving the problem of illegal parking due to lack of parking spaces; if so, the details; if not, the reasons.

Asked by: Hon YICK Chi-ming, Frankie (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

The numbers of Fixed Penalty Tickets (FPTs) issued by the Police Force under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) by Police Region in the past 2 years are listed in the following table:

Police Region	Number of FPTs for illegal parking issued	
	2021	2022
Hong Kong Island	688 592	624 000
Kowloon East	570 466	555 417
Kowloon West	862 992	1 011 084
New Territories South	584 706	570 895
New Territories North	595 404	602 075
Total	3 302 160	3 363 471

Road safety is one of the Force's operational priorities, and changing the irresponsible behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow is also among the Force's Selected Traffic Enforcement Priorities. The Force has been very concerned with the illegal parking situation. The Force aims to change the undesirable behaviour of road users that obstructs traffic flow through publicity and education, and address parking offences through patrols and enforcement actions. The Force is also committed to adopting technological solutions for traffic enforcement. It will also continue to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies worldwide and make reference to their experience to explore the use of new technologies in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement against illegal parking and road traffic obstruction.

The expenditure involved falls under the Programme of "Road Safety", and no specific breakdown is available.

"Vehicle type" is an item on the FPTs for illegal parking and hence data on the type of vehicle to which an FPT has been issued is readily available to the Force. The Force has been regularly sharing information with the relevant departments for their reference.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SB183

(Question Serial No. 3561)

Head: (122) Hong Kong Police Force
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses
Programme: (2) Prevention and Detection of Crime
Controlling Officer: Commissioner of Police (SIU Chak-ye)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question:

Please advise whether there are any specific policy measures to combat online scam, and whether key performance indicators (KPIs) have been set for such policy measures; if so, the details on the policy measures and the KPIs; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon WONG Chun-sek, Edmund (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

Enhancing cyber security and combating technology crime are among Commissioner's Operational Priorities in 2023. The Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau (CSTCB) and the crime investigation units of various Police Regions and Districts are all dedicated to cracking down on online scams and technology crimes. To further enhance the Police Force's capabilities in combating deception, the e-Crime Processing and Analysis Hub was established in September 2022, with the aim of providing a one-stop platform for responding quickly to public reports and expediting the analysis and investigation of scams and technology crimes, thereby allowing the Force to combat criminal activities more effectively.

The Force has been enhancing its capability in combating online deception and technology crimes, as well as stepping up collaboration, intelligence exchange and law enforcement with relevant stakeholders and law enforcement agencies, such as the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In addition, large-scale thematic crime prevention activities have been organised to raise public awareness of the risks associated with the use of computer, Internet, social media and cyber security, which in turn heighten their alertness to deception.

To address different types of deception and technology crimes, the Force organised a series of large-scale thematic publicity activities in 2022, including "Anti-Deception Month" in February, "Anti-Deception Season" and "Anti-Money Laundering Month" from May to August, "Emotional Disturbances Faced by Scam Victims" in October and "Anti-Scam Test Across the Territory" from November to December. The Force also launched a one-stop scam and pitfall search engine, "Scameter", to help the public identify suspicious information such as platform account names or numbers, payment accounts, phone numbers, email

addresses, URLs, etc. Meanwhile, the Force has proactively disseminated messages on fraud prevention and technology crimes to the general public by using new channels, such as broadcasting scam alerts in 17 government-owned tunnels and collaborating with cinemas to run anti-scam trailers prior to movie screenings. In addition, the Cybercrime Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) of the CSTCB was set up in December 2022, comprising 12 panel members who are experts and leaders from the academia, the education sector, commercial chambers, the financial sector, the information technology sector, the telecommunications sector and various public entities. The CPAP assists the Force in formulating short, medium and long term strategic directions in order to strengthen the Force's digital policing capabilities in combating cybercrimes.

In 2023, the Force will continue to co-ordinate resources, strengthen collaboration with relevant stakeholders and ramp up publicity efforts. Publicity initiatives including the "All-round CyberDefender", a cyber security campaign and the mobile application "Scameter+" have been kick-started. The Force is planning to organise another round of "Anti-Deception Month" and "Anti-Money Laundering Month", and is also organising a speech competition and teacher training workshops on the theme of cyber security, as well as producing a simulation game on online scams to continue to raise public awareness of anti-deception and technology crimes on all fronts.

The Force will, as we have always done, continue to adopt a multi-agency approach to heighten public alertness to different types of deception by collaborating with other government departments, regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders, and by organising large-scale thematic crime prevention activities. The Force has no plans to formulate KPIs for a specific type of deception.

- End -